



COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Justin Johnson, Director

Spokane County Regional Behavioral Health (Administrative Services Organization) 2023 Spokane County Opioid Settlement Funding Expenditure Report

About Opioid Settlement Funding

On October 3, 2022, the Washington State Attorney General's Office, as part of a nationwide agreement, settled litigation against three (3) opioid distributors (McKesson Corp., Cardinal Health Inc, and Amerisource Bergen Drug Corp.). The State's total recovery was \$518 million. Spokane County will receive opioid settlement funds via the One Washington Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Under the MOU, \$476 million will be shared by Washington State and its counties and cities with populations over 10,000 over the next 10 to 17 years (Depending on distribution) to address the opioid epidemic. Opioid Settlement funding must be utilized for specific approved uses, as outlined in the One Washington MOU, some of these approved uses include; improving treatment of opioid use disorder, providing supports and resources for those struggling with opioid use disorder, education regarding the harms of opioid use, addressing the needs of pregnant or parenting women and their families, prevention of overprescribing, programs and education to support first responders and leadership, planning and coordination to focus on regional needs related to the opioid epidemic.

Spokane County will receive approximately \$11,305,842, with some dispersed in 2023 and other amounts disbursed over the next ten (10) to eighteen (18) years to help combat the opioid epidemic locally.

How is Spokane County going to spend the money?

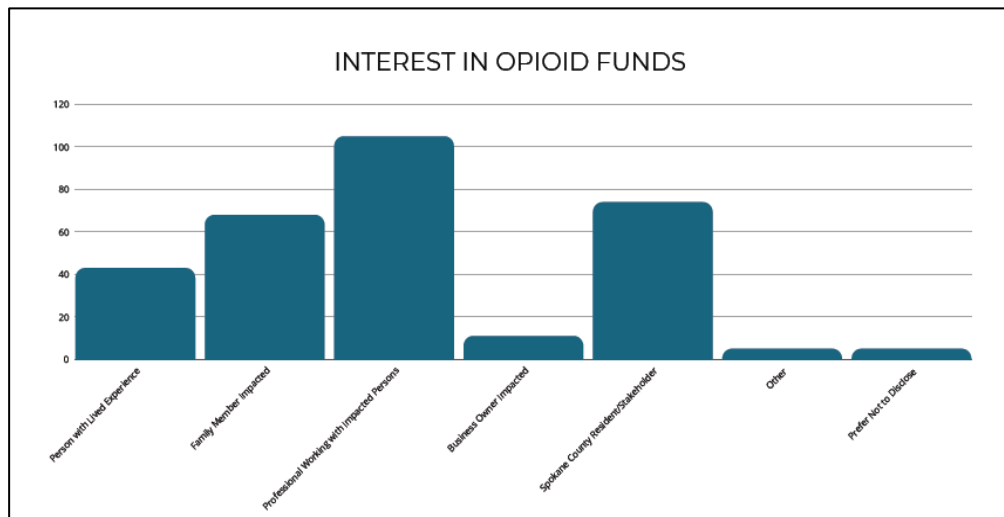
Spokane County has selected the Spokane County Regional Behavioral Health (Administrative Services Organization) (SCRBH (ASO)) to discern priorities, presenting them to the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners for review, approval, and subsequent implementation. As of January 2024, Spokane County has not disbursed any of its Opioid Settlement Funds, as final work for selection and determination of priorities and projects are being finalized. Work has focused on community and resident feedback, identifying regional needs, and developing a strategic plan that maximizes the impact of Opioid Settlement Funds in Spokane County to meet the needs of the community.

- 1. Public Feedback Survey** – First, the SCRBH (ASO) created a Public Feedback Survey for residents of Spokane County. This survey included questions related to priorities that align with the Approved Purposes as set forth in the One Washington MOU. Also

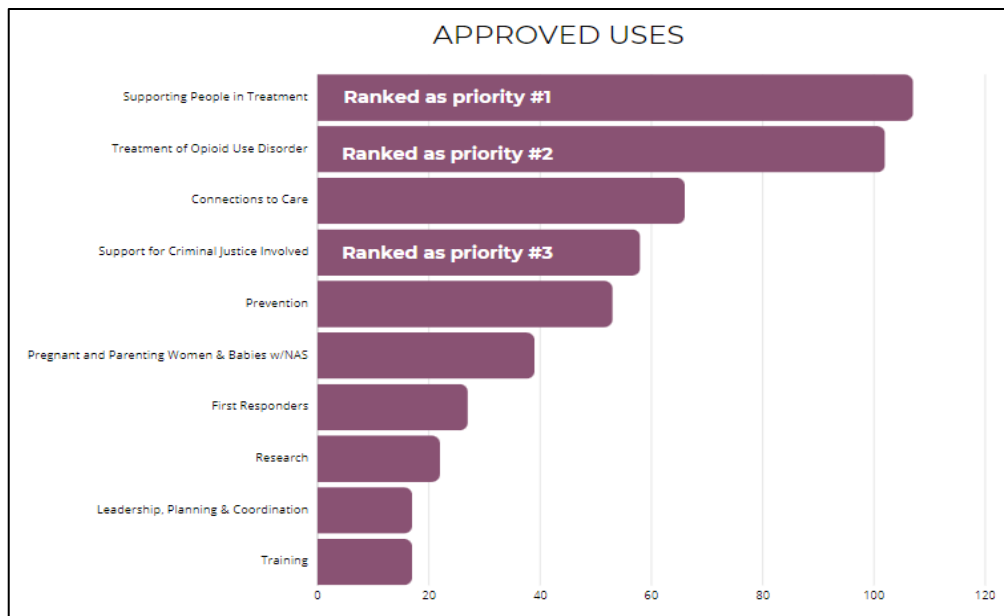
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included in the survey, were questions about specific needs and programs that could potentially be implemented to assist in fighting the Opioid Epidemic. The survey was open to the public from November 1, 2023 – December 4, 2023, allowing sufficient time for Spokane County Residents to complete the survey while still allowing for timely selection of priorities and program implementation. The survey received 201 responses from Spokane County Residents, with a range of feedback from those with lived experience and have been impacted by the Opioid Epidemic to business owners that have interacted with people impacted by the Opioid Epidemic.



The survey also elicited feedback from the public regarding which of the Approved Uses were the most important to focus on. The graph below shows the top four (4) responses: 1. Supporting people in treatment, 2. Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder, 3. Connections to care, and 4. Support for the criminal justice involved.



- 2. Priority Review Committee** – After the completion of the Public Feedback Survey, the SCRBH (ASO) put together a committee of subject matter experts from various backgrounds, ranging from law enforcement to behavioral health professionals.

Members of the Priority Review Committee included representation from:

- Spokane Regional Health District
- Spokane County Sheriff's Department
- Spokane County Community Services Department
- The Spokane County Behavioral Health Advisory Board
- The Office of Behavioral Health Advocacy
- The North East Family, System Partner, Youth Roundtable
- Spokane County Residents

**Other representatives were invited but unable to attend due to conflicting appointments.*

Using their own expertise and experience as well as collating the data from the Public Feedback Survey, the priority review committee narrowed down the priorities into four (4) categories.

- 1. Support for first responders, *First Responders (One WA MOU, Exhibit A, Section I.)*** - First responders are often the first on scene when responding to an opioid overdose. First response is a key connection point to individuals experiencing challenges related to opioid use.
- 2. Supportive Housing for Pregnant and Parenting Women with babies who have Neo-Natal Abstinence Syndrome, *Address the Needs of Pregnant or Parenting Women & Their Families (Including babies with NAS) (One WA MOU, Exhibit A, Section E.)*** - Prevention and early intervention was identified as a huge need. In our community currently, Maddie's Place offers the earliest intervention point in treating babies suffering from Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and offers support and connection to parents and caregivers.
- 3. Expansion of the Spokane Regional Crisis Stabilization Center, *Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder (One WA MOU, Exhibit A, Section A.)*** – The need for more crisis triage and sobering services was identified as a community need - including the availability for not only first responder drop off, but also community walk-ins.
- 4. Narcan, *Prevent Overdose Deaths & Other Harms (One WA MOU, Exhibit A, Section H.)*** – An identified need to make NARCAN available in as many locations as possible, including increased availability for First Responders and community

members to prevent opioid overdose (*Examples: Bus drivers, store owners, schools, Spokane County Courthouse*).

- 3. SCRBH (ASO) Opioid Settlement Priority Recommendations** – When identifying the abovementioned priorities, the SCRBH (ASO) took into account many factors in addition to the Public Feedback Survey and Priority Review Committee feedback. This included; existing programs and services, key gap areas, existing funding availability to fund specific opioid use disorder treatment services (services funded by Medicaid and other commercial insurance plans), and necessary program funding and sustainability.

After collating and analyzing the Public Feedback Survey, receiving priorities identified by the Priority Review Committee, evaluating current resources available for addressing challenges the SCRBH (ASO) identified the following priorities:

- 1. Supportive Housing, Addressing the Needs of Pregnant or Parenting Women (PPW) & Their Families (Including babies with NAS) (One WA MOU, Exhibit A, Section E.)** - Opioid Settlement Funding could be used to expand services for PPW to include supportive housing, targeted childcare, increased care coordination/case management services and to create more opportunities for building a long-term, safe, and healthy community for babies and parents, including peer support to support them through treatment and recovery. Noted community programs include Maddie’s Place in Spokane, WA.
- 2. Behavioral Health Co-Responder Program, First Responders (One WA MOU, Exhibit A, Section I.)** - First Responders regularly respond to situations involving individuals struggling with opioid use. This crucial connection point allows for intervention at a time in a person’s life when they are motivated for change. In Spokane County, there are current initiatives that work to partner first responders with behavioral health professionals designed to assist individuals in connecting with crucial resources, however, this foundation can be enhanced and expanded to better meet the needs stemming from the growing impact of the Opioid Epidemic. Opioid Settlement Funding could be used in conjunction with existing systems to create additional Co-Response teams that include behavioral health professionals partnered with paramedics/Emergency Medical Technicians. This unique partnership would divert people struggling with Opioid Use Disorder from lengthy Emergency Department stays as well as reserve Law Enforcement Responses for more critical community safety needs.

3. Youth Education & Community Engagement (*Prevent Overdose Deaths & Other Harms (Prevent Misuse of Opioids & One WA MOU, Exhibit A, Section G.) One WA MOU, Exhibit A, Section H.)* –

Youth Education Program: Through strategic partnerships with Spokane County Schools, provide research-based, strategic education to students on the dangers of substance use, how to recognize when others are struggling with substance use and how to say no when offered substances. Education could be provided through the Botvin LifeSkills Training Program which focuses on Personal Self-Management Skills, General Social Skills and Drug Resistance Skills to promote mental health, social-emotional skills and positive youth development. Youth education programs could be available for various grade-levels, ensuring that the content is developmentally appropriate for the age of the youth receiving the delivered content. Funding would support purchase of the evidence-based content as well as administrative costs associated with program development, delivery of content and monitoring outcomes and needed program improvements.

Community Engagement & Naloxone: Funding would also support community education programs on the harms of substance use as well as overdose prevention, including what to look for and how to administer Naloxone. Community education could be provided in partnership with local advocacy groups, taskforces and coalitions that are working to combat the Opioid Epidemic. In addition, Naloxone would be provided to first responders and other community members that may potentially interact with someone experiencing an opioid overdose.

4. Twenty-Three (23) Hour Triage & Sobering Services, Spokane Regional Crisis Stabilization Center Expansion (*Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder (One WA MOU, Exhibit A, Section A.)*)

One-time funding would support a capital project through the Spokane County Stabilization Center to expand services to include 23-hour sobering and crisis triage services. To support sobering services on a long-term basis, the SCRBH ASO would recommend the use of Substance Use Block Grant funding on a fee-for-service basis. 23-hour sobering/triage services provide a safe environment for intoxicated individuals to withdrawal from the substances they are using as well as allowing for care coordination services and connection to resources once the person is functionally sober. Services would be available on a walk-in basis within availability and include a brief physical assessment, a Behavioral Health Status Exam, ongoing monitoring and care coordination, triage services, and

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coordination and transition to community services. Providing this service within SRSC provides the unique opportunity for immediate connection to other resources housed within the facility, including ASAM Level 3.2 Withdrawal Management, and ASAM Level 3.5 Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment services.

The Spokane County BoCC will make final determination on how the Opioid Settlement Funding will be used to combat and address the Opioid Epidemic in Spokane County. The SCR BH (ASO) will work at the direction of the Spokane County BoCC to implement, design, and monitor selected programs and services chosen for the use of Opioid Settlement Funds once identified.

Spokane County is looking forward to utilizing the Opioid Settlement Funding to address the growing needs of Spokane County through strategic programs and services that maximize the funding to help the largest number of Spokane County residents while also building upon existing resources available in our community. Spokane County is thankful for Spokane County resident's detailed and thoughtful responses to the Public Feedback Survey, the Priority Review Committee members sharing their expertise and Spokane County Leadership for guidance as the Spokane County Community work together to combat the Opioid Epidemic.

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