NEW JERSEY

OPIOID RECOVERY & REMEDIATION

ADVISORY COUNCIL

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS: OCTOBER 2024

Introduction

In February 2024, Governor Phil Murphy announced funding for the initial recommendations of the New Jersey Opioid Recovery & Remediation Advisory Council. Since that time, the Advisory Council has continued its work gathering and reviewing data, weighing community feedback, and considering further funding recommendations. This addendum provides information about the Advisory Council's work and makes additional recommendations for the use of settlement funding to address critical needs, to supplement previously funded projects, and to continue the Murphy Administration's whole-of-government approach toward tackling the opioid epidemic.

Responsive to the Advisory Council's initial funding recommendations, the Department of Human Services entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Montclair State University's Center for Research and Evaluation on Education and Human Services (CREEHS) to develop a strategic plan that will serve as a roadmap for the Advisory Council throughout the nearly two decades of expected opioid settlement distributions. To date, CREEHS has compiled wide-ranging data about substance use-related needs and outcomes, as well as gathered input via multiple focus groups with individuals with lived experience, one-on-one interviews with key informants, and continued engagement with Advisory Council members. Beginning this fall, Advisory Council members will review and use CREEHS' findings and reports to develop a final strategic plan, to be issued in 2025.

In addition to these efforts, to further help inform future funding recommendations the Advisory Council held a roundtable discussion with families from all over New Jersey who have lost loved ones to the opioid epidemic. Advisory Council members heard directly from family members about the work happening in their communities and the challenges they face connecting individuals to resources, treatment, and other care supports. The Advisory Council thanks these individuals for their time, courage, and ongoing efforts to help curb this epidemic and save lives.

For more information on the first round of funding recommendations and to access the procurements for those programs, please visit www.nj.gov/opioidfunds/funding-opportunities/.

I. Advisory Council Spending Recommendations – October 2024

The Advisory Council's initial funding recommendations highlighted potential areas for future investment. After careful deliberation, the Advisory Council is now recommending funding for the following: breaking down legal barriers for those who need medical and community-based services, expanding successful youth substance use programing, and replenishing the $500,000 held for opioid emergency response to bolster the State's ability to swiftly and effectively respond to emerging issues related to the opioid crisis.

All of the areas initially highlighted will continue to be considered for future funding recommendations.

A color-coded system was created to easily categorize areas of need for the Advisory Council:

Harm Reduction	**Prevention & Recovery Supports**	**Housing**
Treatment	**Wraparound & Connected Care Supports**	**Workforce Development & Capacity Building**

Wraparound & Connected Care Supports

Legal Services for People with a Substance Use Disorder

This program will expand upon recent Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services' (DMHAS) efforts to provide free civil legal services to individuals with mental health or substance use disorders. The proposal will fund two separate models of legal services: 1) a medical/legal partnership whereby full-time attorneys work alongside peer navigators as an integral part of the treatment team when it is identified that there are legal and/or social issues that are impeding an individual's wellness, recovery and/or successful outcomes in treatment, and 2) a regional model whereby attorneys along with navigators are hired or contracted to serve individuals with a SUD outside the treatment team. The program aims to address legal issues that can serve as barriers to accessing needed services (medical, behavioral health, housing, insurance, entitlements, etc.) and to reduce the burden of outstanding legal issues on one's pursuit of wellness, recovery, and their ability to live full lives in the community.

Treatment

Youth Substance Use Initiative Expansion

The Department of Children and Families will expand the South Jersey Initiative statewide. This initiative provides a "no wrong door" approach for youth aged 13 through 17 years who seek access to substance use treatment and continuum of care services. Utilizing a Fee for Service (FFS) model, the expansion will make outpatient, intensive outpatient, and short-term residential treatment programs more accessible statewide. The initiative will also offer early intervention services for youth who may not meet diagnostic criteria, but are engaging in substance use and may be at risk for dependence. Services, including family treatment, will be designed to provide support for youth as well as their parents and caregivers.

Appendix A. Advisory Council Recommendations Table

Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council 2024 Funding Recommendations			
Initiative Title	**Annual Funding Level**	**Funding Duration**	**Initiative Total**
Harm Reduction Expansion Activities	$12,000,000	2 years	$24,000,000
Community Peer Recovery Centers Expansion	$5,835,000	3 years	$17,505,000
Mobile Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) Expansion	$4,525,000 (Year 1) $2,250,000 (Years 2-3)	3 years	$9,025,000
NJ Keeping Families Together (KFT) Expansion	$2,700,000	3 years	$8,100,000
Rapid Referral Platform for Low Threshold Medication Access for Opioid Use Disorder	$6,500,000	3 years	$19,500,000
Housing Options for Individuals with Substance Use Disorder (SUD)	$5,000,000 (Year 1) $6,000,000 (Years 2-3)	3 years	$17,000,000
Opioid Advisory Council Strategic Plan	$291,800	One-Time	$291,800
Opioid Crisis Emergency Response	$500,000	One-Time	$500,000
February 2024 Total			**$95,921,800**
Legal Services for Individuals with Substance Use Disorder (SUD)	$6,750,000	3 years	$20,250,000
Youth Substance Use Initiative Expansion	$1,680,000	3 years	$5,040,000
Opioid Crisis Emergency Response	$500,000	One-Time	$500,000
October 2024 Total			**$25,790,000**
Total Funding 2024			**$121,711,800**