

**COUNTY OF**



**ALLEGHENY**

**RICH FITZGERALD**  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

### **Opioid Settlement Funds**

Beginning August 31, 2022, Allegheny County received its first payment related to the settlement of litigation against manufacturers, distributors, and associated consultants for the opioid industry. Together, the litigation settlement will yield \$82 million in total payouts to Allegheny County through December 2038.

These investment proposals are designed to promote the long-term goals of (1) reducing fatal overdoses and (2) reducing the harms from opioid use disorder in Allegheny County by scaling access to and use of medication, reducing barriers to access treatment in high-risk settings, engaging highly impacted communities in co-creating and implementing on-the-ground solutions, and educating the region on fast-changing risks with drug use and harm reduction techniques.

Expanding access to evidence-based treatment, particularly medication use will be an immediate use of funds. Specifically, \$941,330 will be dedicated to expanding care through telehealth using UPMC – Telemedicine Bridge Clinic. The investment will serve approximately 6,800 people annually by increasing access to medication treatment. An additional \$1,033,330 will be committed to mobile medication services using Allegheny Health Network and Prevention Point Pittsburgh. The effort will serve approximately 1,200 people.

Efforts will also be focused on reducing initiation of drug use and prevent ingestion and overdose through targeted outreach and public education. A marketing firm will be provided \$300,000 to implement a countywide campaign, targeted at parents and caregivers with OUD, to reduce ingestion events in children. Another \$1,093,062 has been committed to community-based organizations to increase awareness and access to services for people and communities most impacted by the opioid epidemic. The providers have not been selected, but the goal of the initiative will be to reach 4,000 people through the campaign.

Additional near-term investments will focus on expanding emergency department engagement and linkage to care, incentives for treatment adherence and abstinence, naloxone distribution, syringe services, quality childcare for children impacted by opioids, and housing with wrap-around supports and care coordination.

Beginning in December 2023, the county will receive an annual payment with the county planning a consistent set of investments to further support priorities. The Department of Human Services, in collaboration with the Children Initiatives and Health departments, is working with CountyStats to create a dashboard that will reflect the use of the funds throughout the length of the disbursement.

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