

KACo Opioid Solutions Learning Opportunities



Kentucky counties continue to lead the way in addressing the opioid epidemic through thoughtful, strategic use of opioid settlement dollars. To support this work, KACo is launching Opioid Solutions, a nine-part webinar series in 2026 designed to help counties better understand and implement the core strategies outlined in [Exhibit E](#) of the national opioid settlements.

Each monthly session will take a deep dive into one allowable strategy area and will include:

- A clear explanation of the strategy and how it fits within settlement requirements
- Practical guidance for local implementation
- Real-world examples of county-funded opioid abatement programs
- Tips to support impact, sustainability, and compliance



Allowable uses of Opioid Settlement Funds



Core strategies:

- **Naloxone** or other opioid overdose reversal drugs
- **Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) / MAT**
- Services for **pregnant women and parents**
- Expanding treatment for **neonatal abstinence syndrome**
- Expansion of **warm hand-off programs** and recovery services
- Treatment for **incarcerated populations**
- **Prevention** programs
- Expanding **syringe service** programs
- Evidence-based **data collection** on the effectiveness of abatement strategies

See Exhibit E, the National Opioid Settlement Agreement

Support People in Recovery



Provide comprehensive wrap-around services to individuals with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions, including housing, transportation, education, job placement, job training, or childcare.

Support or expand peer-recovery centers, which may include support groups, social events, computer access, or other services for persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions



Engage non-profits, faith-based communities, and community coalitions to support people in treatment and recovery and to support family members in their efforts to support the person with OUD in the family.

Support stigma reduction efforts regarding treatment and support for persons with OUD, including reducing the stigma on effective treatment.

Treatment for Incarcerated Population



Provide evidence-based treatment and recovery support, including MAT for persons with OUD and co-occurring SUD/MH disorders within and transitioning out of the criminal justice system;

Increase funding for jails to provide treatment to inmates with OUD.



Support evidence-based withdrawal management services for people with OUD and any co-occurring mental health conditions.

Counties in Action



Graves County

County Jail partnered with the local ASAP Coalition to utilize opioid settlement funds for Recovery Backpack programs, providing individuals leaving jail with Narcan, recovery resources, and harm reduction supplies to support successful reentry and overdose prevention



Montgomery County

Supported First Day Forward through opioid settlement funding to expand reentry services for individuals transitioning from incarceration, helping connect participants with resources that support recovery, stability, and successful reintegration into the community.



First Day Forward

Carla Terry

Director, GME, Grants & Contracts, UK St. Claire
Project Director, First Day Forward



NORTHEAST KENTUCKY
Substance Use Response Coalition

Brittany Herrington

Peer Program Coordinator, Pathways, Inc.
Project Coordinator, First Day Forward

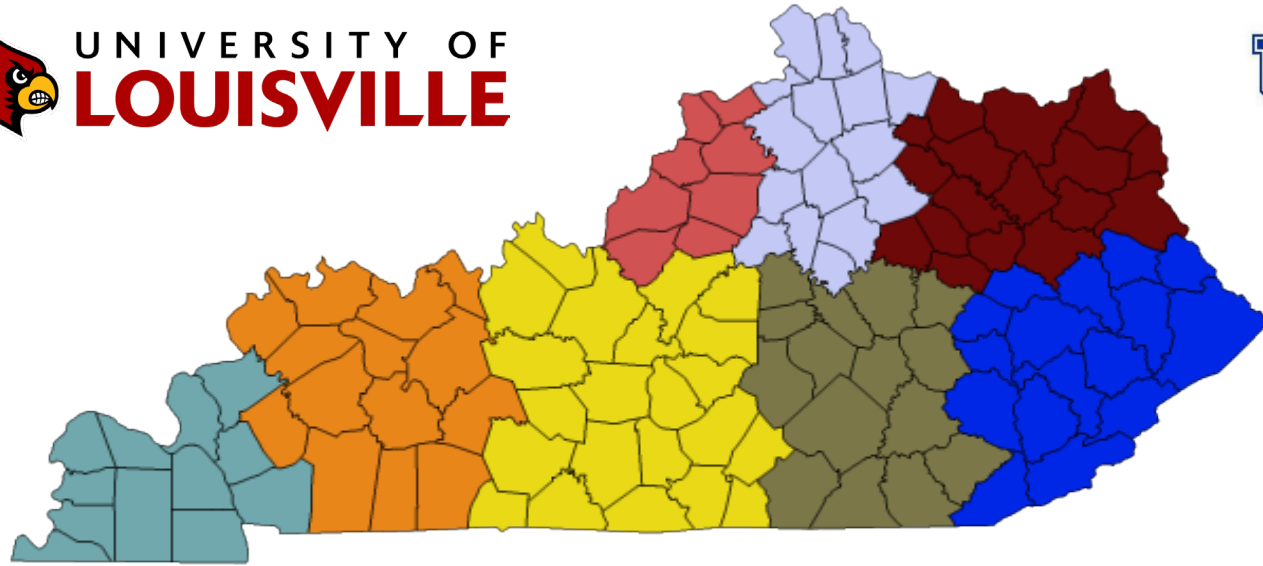


'What the heck's an AHEC?'

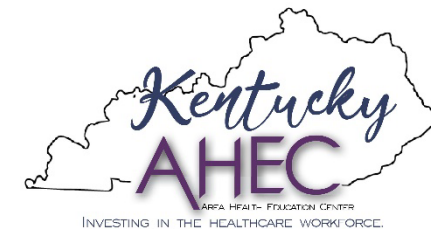
- ◆ Created by Congress in the early 1970s to enhance access to quality health care
 - ◆ Northeast Kentucky AHEC formed in 1985
- ◆ Four strategies:
 - ◆ Health careers promotion, facilitate clinical rotations, continuing education, community health



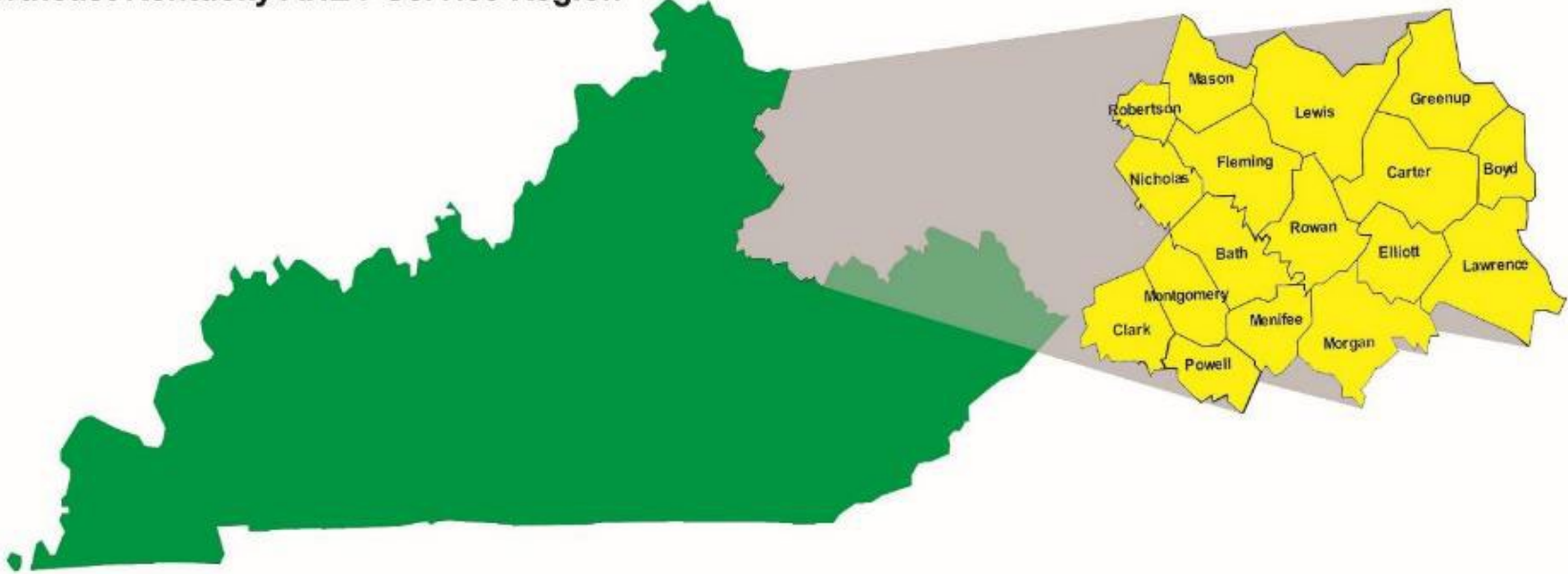
An existing statewide network



- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Purchase AHEC | South Central AHEC | North Central AHEC | Northeast AHEC |
| West AHEC | Northwest AHEC | Southern AHEC | Southeast AHEC |

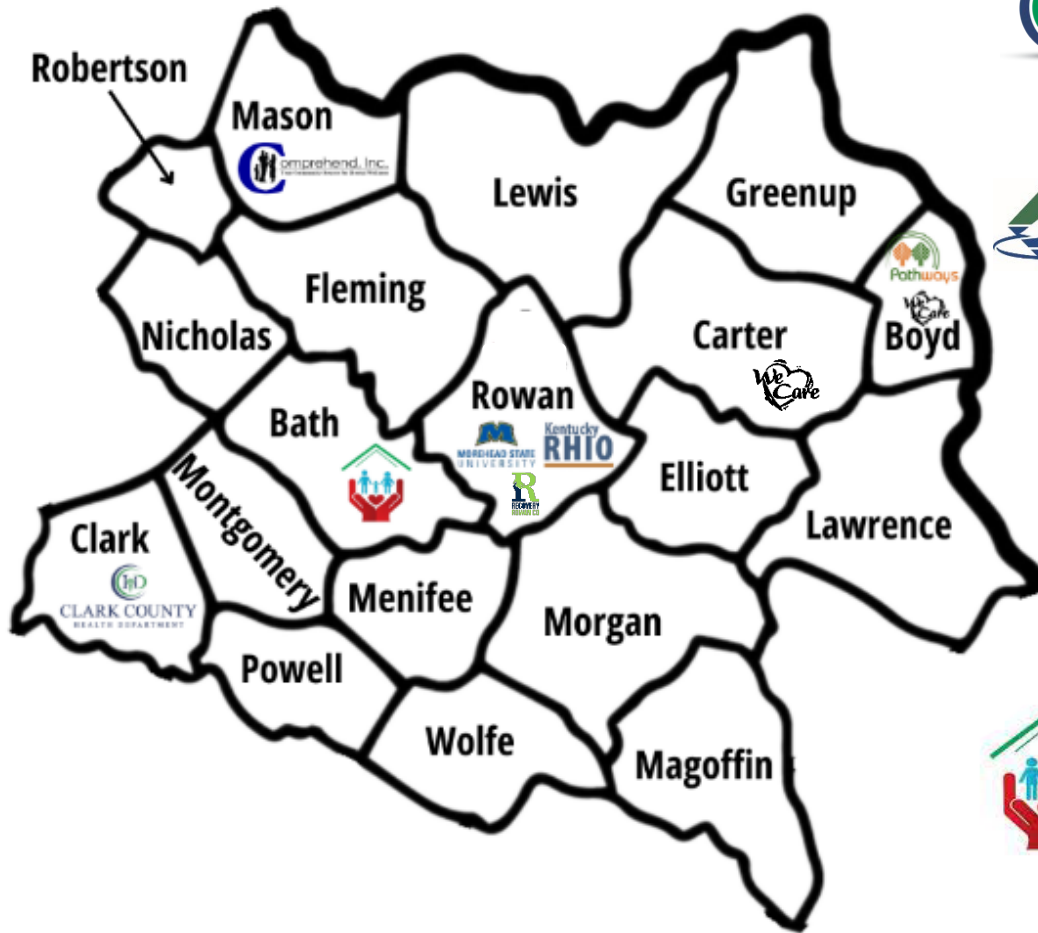


Northeast Kentucky AHEC Service Region



Total population: 321,785

Coalition Members



St. Claire



MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY



TRI-STATE PRIMARY CARE

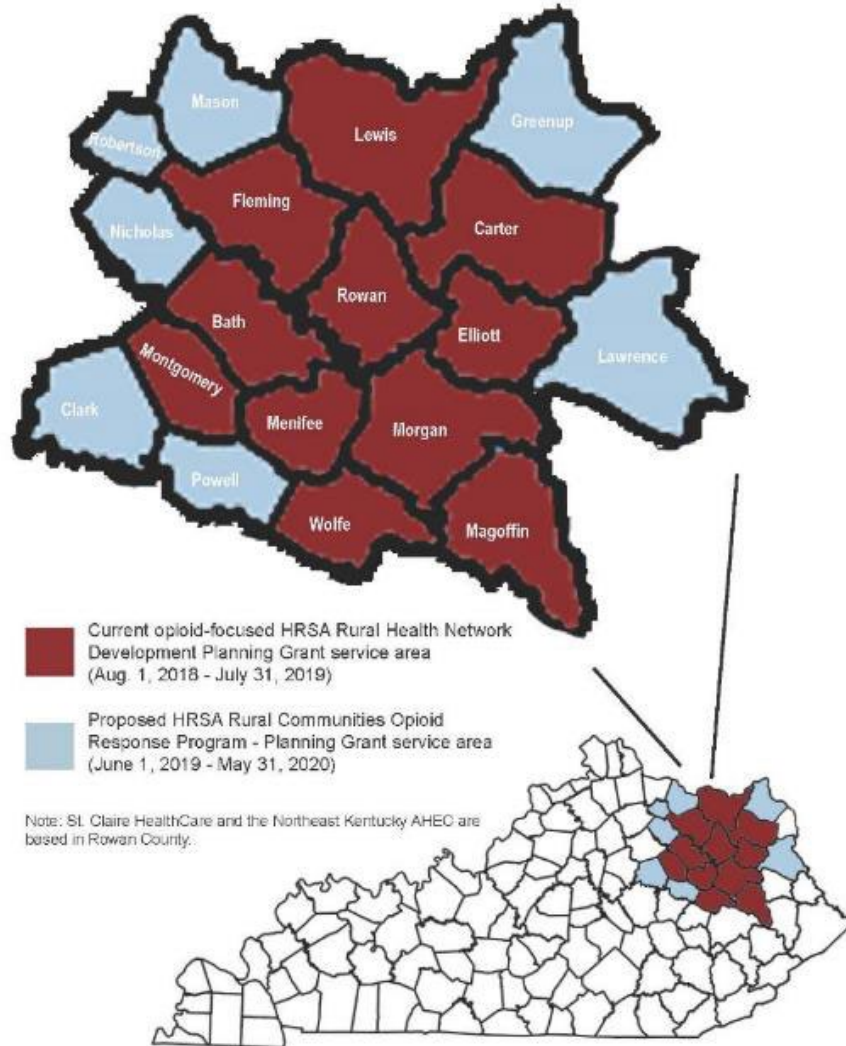


Gateway District Health Department

Bath, Elliott, Menifee, Morgan, and Rowan
P.O. Box 565 - Gudgeon Avenue • Owingsville, KY 40360
(800) 674-6386 • Fax: (806) 674-3071



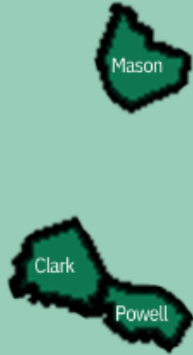
Attachment 8: Map of Target Rural Service Area



RCORP- Planning II

- ◆ One year, \$200,000
- ◆ Formed the Northeast Kentucky Opioid Crisis Response Consortium
 - ◆ In partnership with Achieving Recovery Together, Clark County Health Department, Comprehend Inc., Kentucky Rural Healthcare Information Organization, and Tri-State Primary Care
 - ◆ Jail interviews, community meetings

RCORP Implementation II Grant September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2023 NCE through 2024



Project focus:
Establish First Day Forward program and prescription misuse and substance use prevention education for high school students (specifically 9th graders).

RCORP Implementation IV Grant September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2025

Project focus:
Replicate First Day Forward in Carter County. Prevention education and drug-free youth clubs in target county high schools. Expand drug take back programs. Community education. Billing/Coding education for MAT reimbursement.



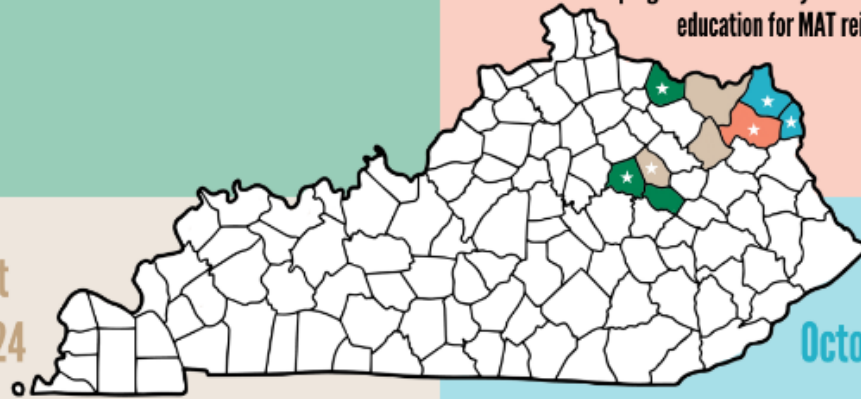
RCORP - Implementation III Grant September 2021 - August 31, 2024



Project focus:
Replicate First Day Forward in Montgomery County. Prevention education and drug-free youth clubs in target county high schools. Expand drug take back programs. Community education. Coordinate pre-release Vivitrol injections in Montgomery and Rowan. Billing/Coding education for MAT reimbursement.

Pallottine October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2024

Project Focus:
Replicate First Day forward in Boyd and Greenup County, Coordinate pre-release Vivitrol injections Coordinate housing and employment opportunities for First Day Forward participants, and Foster strong partnerships that create a more recovery friendly community





**First
Day
Forward**

What is *First Day Forward*?

A program which will:

- Pair incarcerated individuals with substance use disorder with a Peer Support Professional who will work with them on an individualized pre and post-release case plan while they are in jail.
- Provide educational opportunities through self-paced curriculum book.
- Help individuals obtain identification cards, social security cards, birth certificates, medical cards, SNAP benefits, Medicaid benefits, case management, etc.
- Upon release, connect the individual to resources in the community (support groups, medical care, medication for opioid use disorder treatment, employment opportunities, housing options, etc).

“First Day Forward was beneficial for my recovery. It helped me connect to the recovery community within Clark County and the resources I needed to attain long term recovery. If it wasn’t for this wonderful program I would have gone back to using drugs/alcohol. This would have ultimately led to death or jail. I am forever grateful for this program and encourage all who can to participate. I have been moving forward since the first day of my release!” - *FDF Participant*

PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application forms are distributed and collected by:

- Jail staff
- Peer going from cell to cell.
- Group meetings
- Local court system

INITIAL CONTACT

Assigned Peer Support Specialist screens applicant:

Program Requirements

- Individual must be from or returning to a county within our service region upon discharge
- Self identify with a Substance Use Disorder
- Release date of at least 90-days
- Willingness to participate in the program

PRE-RELEASE

Weekly Meetings

- Discuss needs
- Goal setting
- Develop individualized pre-release case plan
- If needed, complete:
 - Identification Card
 - Social Security Card application
 - Birth certificate requisition Form
- List of "felony-friendly" employers
- Personal, handwritten cards from others in recovery or recovery community (peers, churches, etc.)
- Provide Curriculum and discuss in groups:
 - Offender Corrections
 - Offender Responsibility
 - Cognitive Awareness
 - Substance Abuse
 - Employment

POST-RELEASE

Continuation of Services with Peer:

- Days 1 - 60, weekly face-to-face contact
- Days 61 - 90, bi-weekly contact
- Day 91: Program Completion
- Goal setting
- Basic needs (toiletries, clothes, etc.)
- Access to Narcan
- Apply for Medicaid
- Apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Self-help meeting
- Planner/calendar
- Primary care appointment
- MOUD treatment (if needed/wanted)
- Housing
- Employment
- Case management
- Develop individualized post-release case plan
- Personal, handwritten cards from others in recovery or recovery community (peers, churches, etc.)

PROGRAM STATISTICS

as of January 2026

852

participants served since Sept. 2020

74%

participants stated they started using under the age of 18

40%

participants have successfully completed FDF

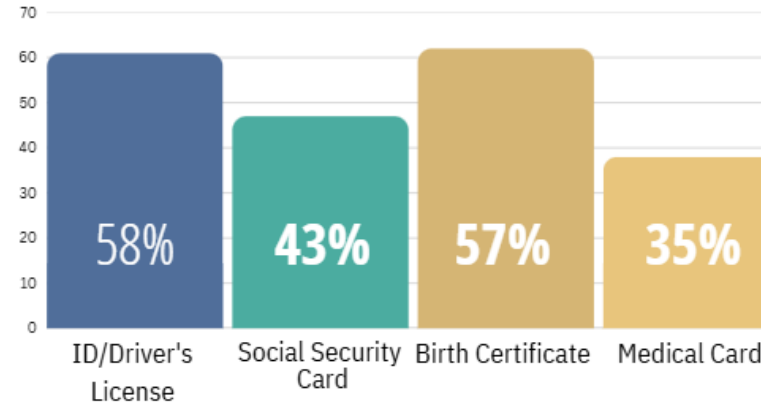
55%

participants have been provided with basic needs and pivotal reentry support immediately upon release

68%

participants have been connected to post release treatment

ESSENTIAL NEEDS IDENTIFIED



35% of FDF participants secured employment

FDF RECIDIVISM RATE

across all years as of July 2025

28.75%

of participants that completed FDF returned to incarceration

68.22%

of participants that DID NOT complete FDF returned to incarceration

30.81%

Kentucky Recidivism Rate as of Feb 2025



Montgomery County Jail – Peer Group

Received Montgomery
County Abatement Funds to
continue FDF and youth
prevention from Jan. 1, 2026
through Dec. 31, 2026



Montgomery County Detention Center Data

Beginning December 2021 under HRSA Imp. III grant through 5/12/2026 - 140 participants

63 females / 77 males

Age Range

- 20-29 21
- 30-39 37
- 40-49 55
- 50-59 16
- 67 1
- 85 1
- Unknown 12

64% of participants reported using under the age 18

Montgomery County Abatement Data

- 9 participants
- 4 females / 5 males
- Age Range
 - 20-29 1
 - 30-39 3
 - 40-49 5
- 4 participants reported using under the age 18
- 5 participants still active
- 3 successfully completed the program
- 1 participant unsuccessful
- More than thirty clients have attended group education while incarcerated and have been screened for FDF upon release

FDF Participant Quote

“First Day Forward is what I’d consider a Gift from God. It has and gives many opportunities to better yourself. It has given me a positive outlook on life and provides ways to overcome obstacles in life that once felt impossible. I have hope and peace of mind and a better understanding and views on my future. I would suggest every person to take the same opportunity as I did. It will allow you to find out who you truly are.”

“I’ve been more than satisfied with all the support and advice during this journey in my recovery. Peer support specialist Mike has not only been supportive, but he’s been an impact and blessing in my life. He is and has been a good friend and peer from day 1!”

Edward, FDF Participant completed program 5/7/2026

Services provided to FDF clients from Montgomery Co. Abatement funds

6 driver's license

1 social security card

6 birth certificates

3 obtained employment

2 provided with housing assistance

169 peer support meetings

THANK YOU!!

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St. Claire



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Scan the QR code to watch the
STORIES video series featuring
our very own Peer Support
Specialists:



NORTHEAST KENTUCKY
Substance Use Response Coalition



KACo Opioid Solutions Learning Opportunities



Check out KACo’s resource library for continuing education opportunities highlighting how counties are using their opioid settlement funds in innovative, effective, and sustainable ways. You’ll find best practices on topics such as youth prevention, peer support, access to treatment, quick response teams, and more. Stay tuned for new resources and updates!

Opioid Settlement Resource Library



Frequently Asked Questions



Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission



Settlement Agreements and Exhibits



Archived Trainings and Recordings



Tools, Templates and Planning



Approved Uses and Resources

Opioid Settlement Advisor



- **Guidance on opioid settlement use**
- **Review of allowable expenses**
- **Support for long-term and strategic planning**
- **Access to templates and standardized forms**
- **Assistance with mandatory reporting requirements**
- **Review of best practices and peer examples**
- **Training and education opportunities**
- **Referrals to qualified practitioners and subject-matter experts**

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