



Massachusetts Opioid Abatement Fund Fact Sheet

What are the Abatement Funds?

On July 21, 2021, Governor Maura Healey, now Governor Maura Healey, announced a \$26 billion resolution with opioid distributors and Johnson & Johnson, which will provide more than \$500 million to the Commonwealth and its cities and towns for prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery across Massachusetts. Funds from these settlements began flowing into Massachusetts in June 2022.

Finalized Statewide Opioid Settlements:

Finalized AGO settlements under which Massachusetts municipalities are eligible to receive direct payments in exchange for signing releases include:

- McKesson, Cardinal, and AmerisourceBergen (the “Distributors”)
- Johnson & Johnson (“J&J”)

Nearly all Massachusetts cities and towns are participating in, and currently receiving funds under these settlements. As of February 15, 2023, over \$42 million has been paid to Massachusetts cities and towns from the Distributors and J&J settlements.

Municipal Abatement Strategies:

Municipal abatement funds must be used to implement strategies set forth in the State-Subdivision Agreement, including reasonable workforce costs necessary to support the programs and strategies. The agreement lays out various programs and strategies designed to support and promote:

- Opioid use disorder treatment access
- Support for people in treatment and recovery
- Connections to care
- Harm Reduction
- Meeting the needs of justice-involved individuals
- Support for Pregnant and Parenting Individuals and their Children
- Prevention

Municipal Abatement Funds:

Under the State-Subdivision Agreement, funds from statewide opioid settlements are allocated as follows:

- 40% to the state’s municipalities to expend on approved programs and strategies.
- 60% to the state’s Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund.
- Requires all funds to be used to supplement and strengthen resources for prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery.
- Requires annual reporting to EOHHS by municipalities that receive annual payments of \$35,000. For falling below this threshold, a report is encouraged.
- The annual municipal reporting form is submitted through a web-based reporting platform.
- Municipalities are encouraged to pool resources and collaborate, including by leveraging existing shared services infrastructure: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/public-health-shared-services>.



Municipalities receiving total annual payments of \$35,000 or more are required to report annually

- Municipalities are encouraged to pool resources and collaborate.
- All municipalities will be encouraged to submit a report.

Report template available at DPH webpage: [Guidance for Municipalities Utilizing Opioid Settlement Abatement Payments](#)

Municipal funding amounts are posted on the [AGO website](#)

Regional Community Engagement Resources:

Municipalities can access support from John Snow Research and Training Institute (JSI) at www.caremass.org and fill out the Request Help form or by emailing abate@jsi.com or by phone (617-385-3655). The JSI team can provide technical assistance and training related to using these funds in compliance with the State Subdivision Agreement. The voice of lived experience is wanted and needed.

Questions?

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