



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Requested Board Meeting Date: 4/15/2025

**= Mandatory, information must be provided*

Click or tap the boxes to enter text. If not applicable, indicate "N/A".

***Title:**

Substance Use Prevention and Response Interventions

***Introduction/Background:**

In August 2021, the State of Arizona and all its 90 cities and towns and 15 counties signed on to a framework called the One Arizona Distribution of Opioid Settlement Funds Agreement ("One Arizona Agreement") to distribute funds across Arizona from national opioid settlements. On February 25, 2022, manufacturer Johnson & Johnson and the "big three" distributors McKesson, AmerisourceBergen, and Cardinal Health finalized a \$26 billion opioid settlement agreement to resolve their liabilities in over 3,000 opioid crisis-related suits nationwide. Since then, multiple settlements have been added.

As part of the national settlement agreements, Arizona, and its political subdivisions are currently projected to receive \$1.12 billion over 18 years. Pima County and Local Government share in the settlement is estimated to be \$117 million or 18.6% of state allocated funds. However, some of the agreements are with businesses that have declared bankruptcy, making the final settlement total uncertain at this time. Pima County Health Department (PCHD) serves as the lead agency for the County's settlement funds. Pima County, City of Tucson, City of South Tucson, and Town of Marana have all agreed to pool their allocations for funds. The Town of Sahuarita and Town of Oro Valley are receiving their allocated amounts.

The opioid settlements require that funds be used according to the approved purposes outlined in the One Arizona Agreement. This funding provides an opportunity to strategically invest in evidence-based strategies and promising practices to end the opioid crisis and prevent future harm, particularly in communities that have been disproportionately affected.

To make the most of the national opioid settlement funds and avoid duplicating efforts covered by other substance use prevention and response funding, PCHD contracted with a vendor to conduct a comprehensive, provider-focused Opioid and Substance Use Needs Assessment. (see Memo: September 19, 2024 - Understanding the Needs of Substance Using Populations in Pima County <https://content.civicplus.com/api/assets/1aff6dc6-1197-484e-8ca8-dc0932cf7d57>).

A Pima County Regional Opioid Settlement Committee (ROSC) was established, with members appointed by the City of Tucson, City of South Tucson, Town of Marana and Pima County, to help guide recommendations about spending these settlement funds.

***Discussion:**

To ensure that opioid settlement funds are invested in evidence-based, evidence-informed, and culturally appropriate strategies that address current and emerging issues and work to prevent future negative impacts, PCHD will be seeking proposals from suppliers through a Request for Proposals procurement process. There are seven initiatives that the Regional Opioid Settlement Committee have identified to potentially fund at this time. These include the following:

- Youth Prevention
- Peer Navigation
- Co-Responder Model

- Transitional Care for Substance Use Disorder
- Mobile Medication for Opioid Use Disorder in Rural Settings
- Innovation Projects Addressing Substance Use Disorder
- Sobering Alternative for Recovery (SAFR) Center Action Plan

These focus areas have been determined through community input, review of best practices, and discussion with the Regional Opioid Settlement Committee.

***Conclusion:**

Pima County is committed to addressing the challenges of substance use in our community. Recognizing the complexity of these challenges, PCHD is determined that opioid settlement funds be used wisely to create the most impact. To achieve this, PCHD will invite proposals from the community to provide substance use prevention and response interventions in Pima County. Funds will additionally be used to support staff positions within PCHD.

***Recommendation:**

Recommendation to approve the use of \$8,000,000.00 in opioid settlement funding for the procurement of services and PCHD staff positions to provide substance use prevention and response interventions in Pima County.

***Fiscal Impact:**

The impact for fiscal year 2025-2026 will be \$8,000,000.00, funded through the One Arizona Distribution of Opioid Settlement Funds Agreement.

***Board of Supervisor District:**

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Theresa Cullen

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Date: 2025.03.31 15:05:12 -07'00'

Date: 3/31/2025

Deputy County Administrator Signature: _____



Date: 3/31/2025

County Administrator Signature: _____

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