



Board of Selectmen Opioid Settlement Fund Disbursement Policy

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear guidelines and procedures for the Voluntown Board of Selectmen (BOS) to follow when considering requests for opioid settlement funds, ensuring that funds are allocated in a manner that best addresses the opioid crisis within the community and aligns with the Board's goals of public health and safety.

1. Eligibility for Funding Requests

Requests for opioid funds may be submitted by nonprofit organizations, government agencies, schools, healthcare providers, and community-based organizations that provide services related to opioid prevention, treatment, and recovery. Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate a direct and measurable impact on the opioid crisis in the town of Voluntown.

2. Purpose of Funding

Opioid funds should be used for initiatives that support the following objectives that align with the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee's approved uses' as presented in Exhibit E and The Connecticut Opioid Response Initiative March 2024;

- **Prevention:** Programs aimed at preventing opioid misuse, including educational initiatives, outreach, and awareness campaigns.
- **Treatment:** Services that provide care for individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD), including inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, medication-assisted treatment (MAT), and other evidence-based treatments.
- **Recovery Support:** Programs that support long-term recovery, such as sober living, peer support, employment assistance, and reintegration into the community.
- **Overdose Death and Harm Reduction:** Efforts to prevent overdose death and reduce the adverse effects of opioid misuse, such as naloxone distribution programs, syringe exchange programs, and access to safe disposal sites.
- **Research and Data Collection:** Projects that aim to better understand opioid misuse and the effectiveness of intervention strategies.

3. Request Process

Requests for opioid funds should follow these steps:

- **Step 1 – Submission of Proposal:** Interested applicants must submit a formal proposal detailing the objectives, scope, timeline, anticipated outcomes, budget, and other relevant information.
- **Step 2 – Presentation to the Board of Selectmen:** The applicant will present its recommendations to the Board of Selectmen during a public meeting. The applicant may be asked to present their proposal in person.
- **Step 3 – Review by Board of Selectmen:** The Board of Selectmen will review all proposals to ensure alignment with the goals of the opioid fund and to assess the feasibility, effectiveness, and sustainability of the requested funding. The subcommittee may request additional information from the applicant, including a detailed evaluation plan.
- **Step 4 – Approval or Denial:** The Board of Selectmen will vote on the funding request during a public meeting. A majority vote is required for approval. If the request is denied, the applicant will be provided with feedback and may be encouraged to resubmit with modifications.

4. Evaluation and Accountability

Once funding is approved, the recipient must:

- Provide regular updates to the Board of Selectmen on the progress and outcomes of the project.
- Submit a final report detailing the use of funds, the project’s impact, and any challenges encountered.
- Participate in periodic audits or evaluations as requested by the Board of Selectmen.

The Board reserves the right to withhold or discontinue funding if the recipient fails to comply with reporting requirements or demonstrates poor performance or misuse of funds.

5. Allocation of Funds

The allocation of funds will be determined by the available balance of opioid settlement funds and the needs identified within the community. The Board of Selectmen may choose to allocate funds in a single distribution or over multiple phases depending on the nature and duration of the proposed project.

6. Transparency and Public Engagement

All funding requests and allocations will be made public through the Voluntown Town website and during public meetings of the Board of Selectmen. Community input will be encouraged throughout the process to ensure that the funds are being used in a manner that best serves the public interest.

7. Policy Review and Amendment

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Board of Selectmen to ensure its effectiveness and to make adjustments as necessary. Changes to the policy may be made through a majority vote of the Board of Selectmen during a public meeting.

Adopted by the Voluntown Board of Selectmen on January 14, 2025.