



OPTIMIZING STATE OPIOID LITIGATION PROCEEDS

Five Tips for Not-for-Profit Organizations
Interested in Accessing Funds
(in fewer than 450 words)

1

Ensure that your state dedicates its opioid litigation proceeds to advancing the public health priorities embodied in the Model Opioid Litigation Proceeds Act.

These public health priorities include:

- Separating settlement proceeds from the general budget
- Addressing all substance use disorders, not just opioid use disorder
- Dedicating the funds toward evidence-based and evidence-informed substance use disorder prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction infrastructure, programs, services, supports, and resources
- Empowering a council of geographically and demographically diverse stakeholders to ensure informed public involvement
- Supplementing, not supplanting, existing funding (insurance benefits, federal grant funding, and Medicaid and Medicare funds)
- Providing transparency and accountability in setting spending priorities and making spending decisions
- Measuring outcomes

How?

- ★ Communicate the priorities and share the model act with your state's attorney general and your state legislators. Urge your attorney general to incorporate the priorities into future settlement agreements or memoranda of understanding.
- ★ Ask your state legislators to enact a similar statute or update the current statute to incorporate these priorities.



2

Find out who will decide how to spend your state's opioid litigation proceeds.

- ★ Determine whether your state has an opioid litigation proceeds law. The [Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association](#)'s table of state opioid litigation proceeds laws is an excellent resource.
- ★ Read your state's law to determine who will make spending decisions.
- ★ If your state does not have an opioid litigation proceeds law, ask your state's attorney general who will make spending decisions.

3

Research your state's priorities for spending the opioid litigation proceeds. How?

- ★ If your state has an opioid litigation proceeds law, read your state's law to determine spending priorities.
- ★ If your state does not have an opioid litigation proceeds law, ask your state's attorney general how the state opioid litigation proceeds will be spent.

4

Learn about any opportunities to apply for funding. How?

- ★ Sign up for announcements from the council or other entity that oversees the spending of opioid litigation proceeds. In addition, frequently check the entity's website for announcements.
- ★ Sign up for opioid-litigation-related announcements from your state's attorney general.
- ★ Sign up for announcements from your state's [single state authority](#) for substance-related services.
- ★ Create a Google Alert using the terms such as [your state] + opioid + trial, verdict, settlement, funds, funding, proceeds, spending.

5

Ensure that any proposal for opioid litigation proceeds that your organization submits:

- ★ Addresses a substance-related public health need,
- ★ Reflects your state's priorities for spending the proceeds, and
- ★ Acknowledges the perspectives and interests of the individuals who will decide how the proceeds will be spent
- ★ Satisfies all the requirements set forth in the funding announcement.



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