



Framework for Awarding Opioid Abatement Dollars

Step 1: Understand the Unique Needs and Priorities in Your Community

What does the data say?

Review the community health assessment data available on the problem of opioid use. Your local health department and regional prevention specialist can help you locate and interpret the latest available data for your community including the:

- [Community Health Needs Assessment](#)
- [Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#)
- [Prevention Needs Assessment](#)
- [Montana Overdose Indicators Dashboard](#)

What partnerships already exist?

Connect with groups already working collaboratively to prevent and address substance use disorders. Your local health department can help you interface with the leadership for these groups, which may include:

- [Regional Opioid Education and Naloxone Distribution Programs](#)
- [Youth substance use prevention coalitions](#)
- [Local Advisory Councils](#)
- [Crisis Response Coalitions](#)
- [Early Childhood Coalitions](#)
- [DUI Task Forces](#)
- [Drug Task Forces](#)

What has your community prioritized?

Review any plans that have already been developed prioritizing opioid abatement strategies based on your community health data including the:

- [The Montana Substance Use Disorders Strategic Plan](#)
- [Community Health Improvement Plans](#)
- [Tribal Opioid Response plans](#)
- Strategic plans from local coalitions and organizations working to prevent substance use and address opioid use

Familiarize your board with how these key partners are organized and funded, and consider ways that your abatement region dollars can be braided to supplement (not supplant or duplicate) their work to increase its impact and sustainability.

Step 2: Understand What Works to Address Opioid Use

Once you understand the data, partnerships and priorities in your community, review evidence-based strategies and existing resources available to address opioid use. Gain insight into what works across the entire continuum of care from prevention to recovery.

Primary Prevention Strategies	Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local youth prevention coalitions Education for youth and families School-based prevention programs Home visiting and parental supports for at-risk families Safe drug storage and disposal Cultural activities for Native youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities that Care The Good Behavior Game Parenting Montana Healthy Montana Families Home Visiting Prescription Drug Drop Box locations All Nation Youth Partner for Success

Early Identification and Referral Strategies	Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal screening in schools and primary care Identification and referral to treatment for pregnant women and parents Warm hand offs and care coordination Drop-In Centers and Low Barrier Shelters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) The Meadowlark Initiative 988 Crisis Line CONNECT Referral System

Harm Reduction Strategies	Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syringe service programs Naloxone education and distribution Fentanyl test strip distribution Public awareness campaigns and education to reduce stigma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Aid Alliance Opioid Education and Naloxone Distribution Programs Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Look Closer Campaign Tribal Opioid Response Program

Treatment Strategies	Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education to reduce overprescribing Integrating substance use screening and treatment into primary care Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) Linkage to MOUD through EMS, the Emergency Room and in corrections facilities Culturally grounded treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Behavioral Health Alliance of Montana Montana Primary Care Association Linkage to care recommendations from the CDC Integrated Behavioral Health White Bison Wellbriety Montana Consortium for Urban Indian Health

Recovery and Support Strategies	Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer Support Specialists Recovery, sober and supportive house Recovery support groups Linkage to housing, employment and childcare supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Montana's Peer Network Recovery Residences Alliance of Montana Narcotics Anonymous of Montana Recovery Community Organizations Housing is Healthcare

Public Safety Strategies	Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobile Crisis Response Teams and Crisis Receiving Centers Drug Treatment Courts Diversion to treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Crisis Now Model Montana Drug Treatment Courts State Justice Initiative

Step 3: Develop a funding request and scoring criteria that align with Step 1 and 2.