



July 7, 2026

Opioid Response Initiative Workshop



OPIOID RESPONSE
INITIATIVE



Purpose of today's meeting

- Update on the Countywide Opioid Response Initiative.
- Understand the opioid crisis and opioid settlement framework.
- Highlight investments and progress to date.
- Discuss strategic direction and next steps.



Declaration of a Public Health Emergency

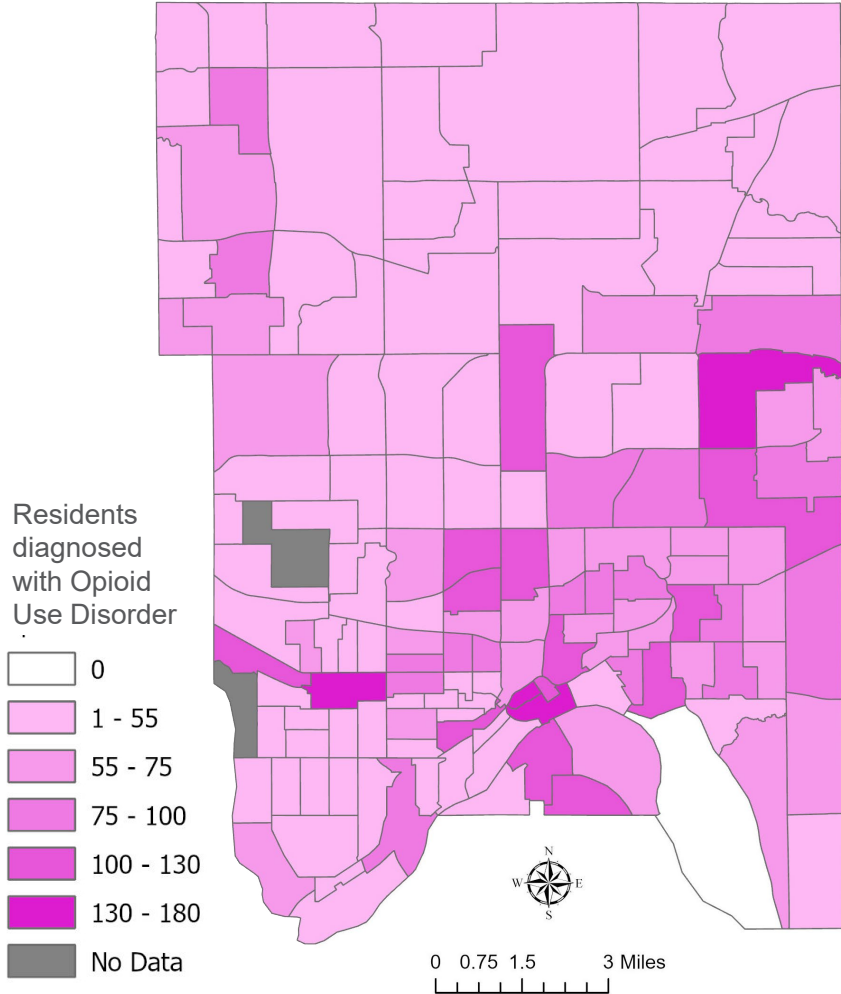
2017

The opioid epidemic is officially declared a **Public Health Emergency** under the U.S. Public Health Service Act.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) **renews** the Public Health Emergency declaration.

2018-2026

2020-2024 Opioid-Diagnosed Conditions among RC Residents by Census Tract



Data about the Opioid Crisis in Ramsey County

- Health Trends Across Communities (HTAC) data is collected annually from electronic health records.
- The data comes from 11 local health care systems that are part of the Minnesota Electronic Health Record Consortium (MNEHR).
- HTAC opioid-diagnosed conditions data include Ramsey County residents who received care in the last 3 years AND had a diagnosis of Opioid Use Disorder in the last 5 years.
- Public Health tracks and analyzes several other data sources about Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) including fatal and non-fatal opioid-involved overdoses as our two key performance measures.

A Brief History of the Opioid Settlement

JULY 2021

National opioid settlements were reached with major pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors tied to the opioid epidemic.

DECEMBER 2021

Minnesota Attorney General reaches agreement (MOA) with MN Cities and Counties, detailing how funds can be used, naming Public Health as the lead agency and chief strategist, and creating a special revenue fund. Funds can be used for treatment, prevention and other strategies.

APRIL 2022

The Reporting and Compliance Addendum is finalized. Annual reporting to a public dashboard is required, detailing the culturally relevant evidence-based practices that were funded. Process and outcome performance measures and progress are required for each funded project.

MAY 2022

Public Health Opioid Response team is formed and conducts community-wide survey to identify priorities from the list of allowable uses in the MOA.

2022 – 2025

Ramsey County Opioid Response Initiative funds community programming and internal county trainings and services. *Details on following slides.*

OCTOBER 2025

Ramsey County creates a new governance structure for the opioid settlement funding.

Putting a Face to the Opioid Crisis



Settlement Funding through 2038 by Jurisdiction

Municipality	Total payments
Maplewood	\$702,282
North Saint Paul	\$215,671
Ramsey County	\$26,622,128
Roseville	\$644,905
Saint Paul	\$14,035,590
Hennepin County	\$71,394,645
Minneapolis	\$18,268,683

Opioid Settlement Funding

TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUE
(through 2027)
\$14.5M

PROJECTED
EXPENDITURES 2026-27
\$5.4M

EXPENDED TO
DATE (5/31/26)
\$2.1M

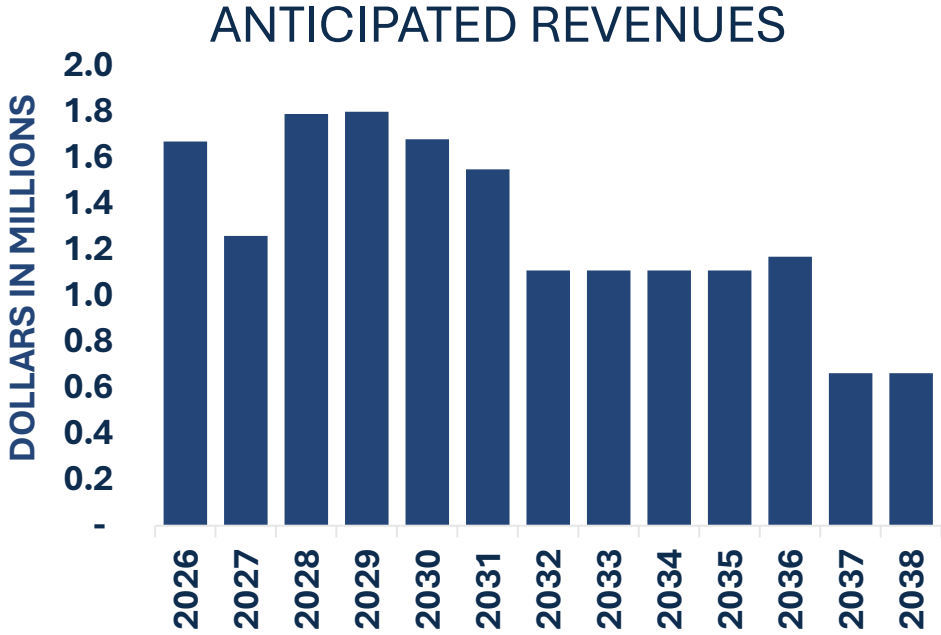
ESTIMATED 26-27
REVENUE
\$2.9M

ESTIMATED 26-27
INTEREST EARNED
\$452K

COLLECTED
TO DATE
\$11.1M

OBLIGATIONS
\$3.2M

TOTAL UNCOMMITTED FUNDS
(Year-end 2027)
\$9.1M



Opioid Response Projects 2022-2025

- **Naloxone training and distribution** to over 1200 County employees (funded by State settlement funds): \$750,000 over 3 years (2022-2025).
- **Naloxone distribution project** mailed 1571 kits to households and 910 kits to community partners: \$180,000 over 2 years (2023-2024).
- **Grants to 17 community organizations** prioritizing pregnant people and babies, culturally specific treatment, prevention, justice involved individuals and youth: \$900,000 over 2 years (2024-2025).
- **Treatment Court case management** provided to 55 clients per month: \$140,000 per year (2024-2029).
- **Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)** at the Ramsey County Correctional Facility and Adult Detention Center. \$91,000 from the Correctional Health Budget (2019-ongoing).

2025/2026 Accomplishments and Projects





Harm Reduction Supply Cabinets

Located at community partner organizations: Tubman Northstar Outreach Center, Open Hands Midway at Bethlehem Lutheran, Roots Wellness Center, and Regions Hospital Emergency Department.

- Nasal naloxone.
- Drug testing strips.
- Wound care kits.
- Syringes and disposal containers.
- Safer sex kits: condoms, lube, dental dams.
- Seasonal supplies.
- \$150,000 per year.

Currently working on a solicitation to support community organizations to purchase harm reduction vending machines.





Essential supplies for Saint Paul Fire Department first responders

- Harm reduction supplies and CPR machine for first responders addressing opioid overdoses in the City of Saint Paul.
- \$20,000 one-time funds.
- Additional harm reduction supplies were distributed to other fire departments in the County.





Pretrial supervision case management through JusticePoint at Ramsey County Treatment Courts

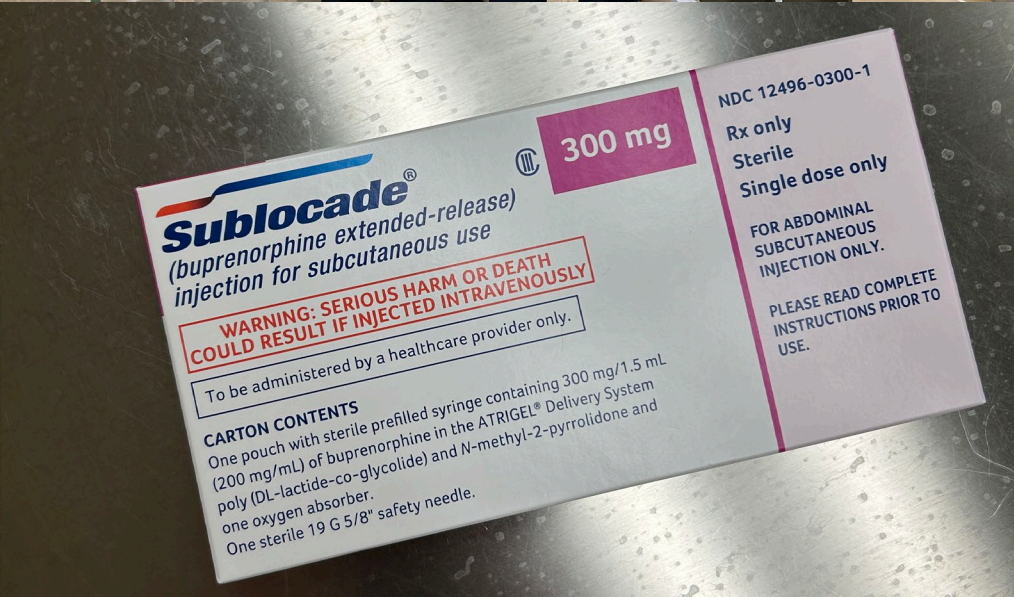
- Yearly contract of \$140,000 through 2029.
- Pretrial Supervision Case Managers increase the success of Treatment Courts.
- Treatment Courts offer the chance to enter treatment programs with court supervision as an alternative to long-term incarceration.
- Up to 55 people can use JusticePoint's pretrial services every month at any of the Adult Substance Abuse Court, Driving While Impaired Court, Veterans Court, and the Mental Health Court.





Extended-release buprenorphine at Correctional Facility/Detention Center

- Expanded treatment options for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) including extended-release (monthly) buprenorphine injections.
- Monthly doses provide steady, long-acting treatment that improves health and makes it easier for patients to transition out of correctional facilities.
- \$260,000 budgeted in 2026 for extended-release MOUD.
- Regions Hospital interested in utilizing Saint Paul and Ramsey County settlement funds to purchase this medication for their Emergency Department.





Syringe Service Program (SSP)

- Anonymous syringe exchange and disposal.
- Naloxone and trainings to individuals and community organizations.
- Fentanyl, Xylazine and Medetomidine drug testing strips.
- Wound care.
- Harm reduction education and community outreach.
- HIV and Hepatitis C testing.
- Connection to community resources.
- Funded by the State until June 2026.
- \$590,000 from Settlement funds (July 2026-July 2027).





National Opioid Settlement Conference

- First annual conference held in June 2026 in Denver, CO.
- Attended by cross-functional team including accounting, communications, planning and evaluation.
- Focused on ensuring the transparent, equitable and effective use of settlement funding.
- Evidence-based practice sharing:
 - John Hopkins *Principles for the Use of the Funds from Opioid Settlements*
 - *A National Roadmap for Opioid Settlement Funds: Supporting Communities & Ending the Overdose Crisis.*

Countywide Approach



Leadership direction.



Resident-centered focus supporting prevention, treatment, recovery, and community stability.



Cross-system challenges.



Shared countywide strategy.



Long-term impact.

Governance Structure

Executive Governance Team

Sponsored by Deputy County Manager (DCM) Abdi, DCM Francois, DCM Reyes

Internal Advisory Committee

CHAIR Public Health Director, Community Corrections Director, Social Services Director, Financial Assistance Director, Housing Stability Director, Workforce Solutions Director, County Attorney Designee, Sheriff's Office Designee, Racial and Health Equity Liaison.

Community Advisory Group (future state)



Next Steps: Advisory Committee and Funding Process

Advisory Committee **RECOMMENDS** - Executive Sponsors **DECIDES** - County staff **IMPLEMENTS**

Phase 1:

BUILD THE DECISION FRAMEWORK

Projected timeline: **June - July**

- Launch committee.
- Clarify roles.
- Establish investment principles.
- Recommend funding framework.

Phase 2:

DEVELOP FUNDING REQUEST PROCESS

Projected timeline: **August - September**

- Internal application.
- Technical and eligibility review.
- Proposal summaries prepared.

Phase 3:

REVIEW AND RECOMMEND

Projected timeline: **September**

- Proposal review.
- Funding recommendations and rationale.
- Review by Executive Sponsors.

Future:

APPROVE AND IMPLEMENT

Projected timeline: **October and beyond**

- Funding approvals.
- Project implementation.
- Progress monitoring and Community updates.
- Continuous improvement.

2026-2027 and beyond

- **Leveraging Resources**

- Support for Detox Withdrawal Management Closure Bridging Plan (\$60,000 Q.1 2026).
- Housing Stability Department budgeted \$300,000 per year in 2026 and 2027.
- Appropriate Response Initiative budgeted \$451,000 in 2027.
- Syringe Service Program budgeted \$590,000 for 2026-2027.

- **Collaboration**

- Gathering internal inventory of Ramsey County services and activities related to opioid misuse.
- Continued conversations with jurisdictions to leverage settlement funds most effectively.
- Local Public Health Association first Opioid Settlement Strategies Summit (May 2026).
- First annual National Opioid Settlement Conference (June 2026).
- National Association of Counties Opioid Settlement Summit (July 2026).



OPIOID RESPONSE
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Questions and discussion

Thank you!

