

Q&A Session for Opioid Settlement Fund Statewide Community Meeting
5.24.23 1:00pm

Q1. If a city that will be receiving OASAS funds is contracting with an agency, and that agency is ready to start providing services but as a county we need to follow our procurement process/contract process which can take quite some time - can OASAS send out a letter stating that they allow the LGU to procure at its discretion?

A1. As the lead state agency of the Opioid Settlement Fund, OASAS is required to provide regional share state abatement dollars to the LGUs, five large cities and other litigating entities identified in the settlement agreements. Once these local subdivision entities apply for the funding using the OASAS Planned Use of Funds Request form, OASAS pays 100% of the funds to the entities. The opioid settlement state abatement funds provided by OASAS are required to be spent on opioid abatement purposes and approved uses, as stated in Mental Hygiene Law Sec. 25.18 and the opioid settlement fund advisory board November 2022 report. Also, these local subdivisions must ensure that they are not using opioid settlement state abatement dollars to supplant any local, state, federal dollars that were already being spent in the base funding for the SUD related services and supports. Each local subdivision can follow their own procurement rules to award and contract with other vendors/contractors/providers of goods, services and supports.

Q2. Does the County have to report for the spending of OLE/Cities?

A2. No, each awarded entity is responsible for their own reporting.

Q3. Will there be any initiatives that address workforce challenges?

A3. See response to Q&A Q 19 from April 2023 Meeting. Also see <https://oasas.ny.gov/credentialing/alcoholism-and-substance-abuse-counselor-casac> regarding scholarship opportunities.

Q4. If you have received funds from the County through a Regional Abatement, can you also apply to a future RFA released by the state?

A4. Yes.

Q5. Will there be funding to support existing Syringe Exchange and related Harm Reduction Programs?

A5. The Department of Health will be providing funding to existing syringe exchange programs to allow them to expand their services, add new sites, and increase their workforce. This may include hiring people with lived experience. In addition, RFAs will be issued this summer that syringe exchange programs will be eligible to apply for.

Q6. Who should we send the suggestions to?

A6. OSFProjectManagement@oasas.ny.gov

Q7. Can you provide an update on progress in meeting the % of funding distributed thus far in accordance with the 10 priority areas?

A7. See [Opioid Settlement Fund Tracker | Office of Addiction Services and Supports \(ny.gov\)](#)

Q8. Regarding scholarship dollars and staff retention & engagement. Would/could that include training agencies?

A8. The idea for future investments to include training for staff at the agencies is certainly another option for investing into the workforce. We will work collaboratively with the other state agencies to further develop this concept.

Q9. Can you just restate the categories please? Were there 4 or 5?

A9. See the webpage in Q7.

Q10. Can this information (from Q7) be placed on the website and be updated?

A10. See the answer to Q7 above, and yes it will be updated regularly.

Q11. For the remaining funds to be spent under the categories, will the advisory board conduct "check-ins" with regional providers to get additional feedback from the community?

A11. OASAS is responsible for collecting information and reporting to the OSFAB on the spending of the dollars. A portion of every OSFAB meeting is dedicated to public comment.

Q12. What type of research is OASAS seeking from those of us on the ground?

A12. A research RFA is forthcoming, summer 2023.

Q13. Can you provide an update about the round 2 dollars for Suffolk County?

A13. OASAS is not able to provide any updates on the opioid settlement funds that were provided by the Attorney General and the third party administrator to certain local subdivisions, like Suffolk county. OASAS is the lead state agency for the opioid settlement funds that flow through the state from the opioid settlement fund in the OASAS budget, so we can only provide updates on those state abatement funds.

Q14. How much will be allocated for research?

A14. Currently almost \$1 million is slated for research from the FY 2023-2024 Enacted Budget.

Q15. Do co-occurring disorders fall under treatment?

A15. Yes, it is a focus of the board as well as OASAS to ensure that every solicitation be written with the lens of recognizing co-occurring disorders in all the 10 priority funding areas as well as in all OASAS procurements.

Q16. Can you send out a list of the links that the procurements will be released on?

A16. <https://oasas.ny.gov/procurement> .

Q17. Is the county responsible to be part of the outcome/data collection process that the cities submit?

A17. No.

Q18. How many times can an employee submit for settlement funds? Is it twice of for every quarter they worked?

A18. Currently, there is no procurement that provides opioid settlement state abatement dollars to employees.

Q19. Are HCBS and CORE providers eligible for any of these funds?

A19. Each RFA has a unique list of who is eligible and wherever possible OASAS is including OMH/DOH entities. Additionally, please see <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/rfp/> for upcoming OMH opportunities.

Q20. Is the eligibility of this program available to not for profits and for profits?

A20. OASAS can only make OSF grant dollars available to not-for-profit or governmental entities.

Q21. Will OASAS consider opening these funding opportunities to for-profit entities as the law allows so all providers have the opportunity to apply in the interest of their patients?

A21. OSFAB state dollars cannot be used to fund for-profit entities. Once the regional abatement dollars are disbursed to the local subdivision entities, the entities can award according to their local procurement rules (which may or may not allow for profit entities to be funded).

Q&A Session for Opioid Settlement Fund Statewide Community Meeting
6.28.23 1:00pm

Q1. I would like to know if there have been conversations regarding the existing Recovery Community Centers across the State. Our budgets have not increased regardless of the increase in the number of people we serve. I would also like to know if the Opioid task force will create a pathway for Recovery Community Centers to bill for peer services, which is one way we can become sustainable. New York has already created a framework of centers across the state, the potential of which has not been tapped into. We have already begun to create a Statewide infrastructure to offer wrap around services and connect people to harm reduction, treatment and recovery. I would like to submit the Rockefeller Report as evidence of the effectiveness and potential across New York State. Please be sure all members of the committee receive a copy, If you need the copies I can have them delivered.

A1. Thank you for the information regarding recovery centers, the document attached to the question has been forwarded to the chair of the advisory board.

Q2. Have reporting requirements been established for the regional abatement funding?

A2. Yes, and more details can be found on the RA meeting recording from July
<https://youtu.be/p2P8xGPaEcg>

Q3. What new funding might be coming out?

A3. You can view all opportunities through our Procurements webpage:
<https://oasas.ny.gov/procurement> or on the Opioid Settlement Fund Initiatives webpage:
<https://oasas.ny.gov/opioid-settlement-funding-initiatives>

Q4. Will there be funding available for Recovery Housing part 863 start ups?

A4. This is to be determined.

Q5. Will there be further RFA's for mobile MAT vans?

A5. This is to be determined.

Q6. Upcoming opportunities question: Transportation (any details?), Research and Housing was also mentioned?

A6. See the answer to Q3 above.

Q&A Session for Opioid Settlement Fund Statewide Community Meeting
7.26.23 1:00pm

Q1. This site (OASAS Opioid Settlement Fund Tracker) is not available yet, is that right? I just tried to go to it, but it seems unavailable.

A1. [Opioid Settlement Fund Tracker | Office of Addiction Services and Supports \(ny.gov\)](#)

Q2. Will all contracts be listed here (OASAS Opioid Settlement Fund Tracker) even if there were dollars released NOT via an RFA? Such as, I do see the \$8 million for NY Matters, but how about the other \$1.3 million to NY Matters that was awarded without an RFA?

A2. <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/open-book-new-york> executed contracts can be found here.

Q3. Where will we see dollars like that (listed in Q2) in the chart (OASAS Opioid Settlement Tracker)?

A3. All funds utilized by OASAS are listed in the OSF tracker regardless of procurement process.

Q4. Is it possible to apply to the Connections to Care initiative? <https://oasas.ny.gov/rfa/connections-to-care>?

A4. No - Applications for the Connections to Care initiative closed on May 22, 2023.

Q5. What is the vendor name for NY MATTERS?

A5. University Emergency Medical Services, Inc.

Q6. So there is no contract with the county for the abatement funds correct?

A6. Correct.

Q7. What is the definition of "across the continuum" and how are these funding efforts different from the other categories listed?

A7. Refer to the Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Board Annual Report, released on November 1, 2022 for further details:
https://oasas.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/11/osfab_yearly_report_110122.pdf

Q8. Are there any initiatives similar to that (Connections to Care) that are open?

A8. Not as of the posting of this Q&A document

Q9. Are there any initiatives for settlement funds to be used towards access to affordable treatment?

A9. The Bupe-AP initiative provides treatment utilizing buprenorphine for opioid use disorder for uninsured and under-insured New Yorkers through the DOH AIDS Institute Uninsured Care Programs 1-800-542-2437; 1-844-682-4058.

Q10. When will opportunities be made available for grassroots organizations?

A10. Mechanisms for awarding small organizations otherwise excluded from funding are currently in development.

Q11. When will OASAS start their outreach to grassroots organizations?

A11. OASAS has reached out to the LGU to provide contact information regarding the treatment adjacent partners by county.

Q12. Since we are not on the mailing lists - how will we be reached?

A12. All information regarding Opioid Settlement Fund initiatives and Community Input can be found on <https://oasas.ny.gov/opioid-settlement-funding-initiatives>

Q13. How about a public campaign to directly reach out to grassroots org to join a mailing list?

A13. OASAS is currently working with LGUs to identify community-based organizations not currently participating in the OASAS system.

Q14. Priority populations do not currently include Black and Latinx, despite mortality data reflecting they are dying at higher rates of increase in NYC., will there be targeted efforts to mitigate these harms?

A14. OASAS acknowledges racial disparities exist within our system and following the board recommendations opted to include an equity overlay as part of all initiatives funded through OSF rather than through a single procurement opportunity.

Q15. How do you become an SSP in NYC?

A15. <https://fphnyc.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/76/2021/11/Attachment-A-2nd-Tier-SEP-Guidance-2021-2.pdf>