

Q&A Session for Opioid Settlement Fund Statewide Community Meeting

3.27.24 12:00pm

Q1. Are there any new or about to be released for the next round of the settlement funds that we could expect to see in the tracker this month?

A1. OASAS continues to work on the FY 2024 appropriations, making dollars available through various procurement efforts. While there isn't anything further to report at this time, ongoing updates will be made to the Opioid Settlement Funds Tracker and Opioid Settlement Funds Initiative Webpage.

Q2. With scholarships, we are bringing people in. There is still a need to retain skilled staff to work in our field. I am interested in potential ideas to assist with retention in the field.

A2. Through the SAPT supplemental block grant, funding was made available that included the ability to use dollars for staff retention, bonuses, and hiring bonuses. In terms of additional opportunities and use of the Opioid Settlement Funds for this effort, we will continue to monitor and identify ways to support the workforce as needed.

Q3. Will there be another round of the local impact initiative funds?

A3. OASAS is looking at all the different opportunities, including initiatives to continue supporting communities. The interest toward the local impact initiatives is noted.

Q4. Is there an opportunity for Recovery Community Center that is just starting up?

A4. There are no current updates on the availability of additional funding for new Recovery Community Centers.

Q5. Do you have any plans to improve accessibility for people with disabilities? As an example, many programs need support to improve their digital accessibility to assist with vision impairment and/or other physical disabilities. Both populations need substance use or recovery services but many programs are not set up for them.

A5. OASAS continues to monitor and provide funds for both physical and digital accessibility. Providers with a specific location or digital accessibility concerns should reach out to their regional office and OASAS will evaluate the request. If you are unsure of your regional office, please contact OSFProjectManagement@oasas.ny.gov.

Q6. There has been an increase in opposition throughout the state unfortunately to expansion of OTPs – this could be a barrier to using some of the funding that is specific in these RFPs – is OASAS working with LGUs, counties to address these increasing concerns? This has come up in various coalition meetings.

A6. OASAS is aware of and addressing these issues. We work in collaboration with providers and have continued to provide opportunities to assist with expanding access to Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) and methadone as a medication option for opioid use disorder. As part of the RFAs that increase access to OTPs, OASAS provides ongoing support, guidance, and technical assistance to providers throughout the contract period.