

# Weber County, Utah

## **Opioid Settlement Plan**

May 2023 Report

**Executive Summary:**

On March 25, 2022, the State of Utah signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining the terms and conditions regarding the Settlement of Opioid lawsuits against Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants. Weber County is receiving a portion of these Settlements. The MOU outlines that Weber County will receive 9.883% of the State’s county allocation.

The MOU also states Weber County may distribute the County’s share of the Settlement Funds in any manner the County chooses, consistent with the requirements set forth in the Settlements. The funds are designated to be used for Opioid remediation uses. The MOU outlines eligible ways the funds may be used by recipients.

**Use of Funds:**

Weber County plans to utilize the Opioid Settlement funds in programs or areas that show the greatest impact in addressing the Opioid epidemic. The MOU outlines abatement strategies that support treatment and prevention of Opioid Use Disorder and any co-occurring Substance Use Disorder or Mental Health conditions.

The programs should be evidence-based or evidence-informed programs that have proven results. In prioritizing these programs, Weber County will assess the needs identified and underfunded in the County. It will also consider programs that are not yet available in the County, that have been proven successful in other areas.

At this time analysis of needs are currently being conducted.

**Community Engagement:**

Weber County is in the process of reaching out to the community, and professionals that work in the areas involved with Opioid abuse. This input is critical in determining where Weber County is lacking and which areas need more resources. This information will be used to develop a scope/framework in which the County will use in prioritizing spending the Settlement funds.

It is anticipated that an application process will be established for different parties to apply for funding grants. These applications will be evaluated, using the Weber County scope as the basis for approval. Weber County may decide to initially allocate funds based on a 3-5 year timeframe and then reevaluate the success of the funded programs before committing more.

**Settlement Funds:**

Funds Received as of May 30, 2023: \$1,218,729.63

Funds Allocated:

Public Defender’s Office: (\$426,000.00)

3 year position, \$142,000 per year: Director, Forensic Social Work Division

(This position qualifies in the MOU under Schedule B, Section B, and subsection 5:

Provide Community support services, including social and legal services, to assist in deinstitutionalizing persons with OUD conditions.)