

# MASSACHUSETTS OPIOID ABATEMENT FUND DISTRIBUTION



## Impact and Regional Opportunities

### About the Opioid Abatement Funds

In 2021 attorneys general across the United States reached an agreement with opioid companies and Johnson & Johnson to settle legal claims over their actions which fueled the opioid epidemic (1). These payments amount to more than \$26 billion that will be distributed across states involved in the settlement agreements. State's shares of the funds are determined by involvement in the suit, and based on the impact of the opioid epidemic in that state, including opioid related deaths, number of individuals with Substance Use Disorder (SUD), and the number of opioids delivered to that state (1). The state of Massachusetts is receiving >\$900 million as a result of this settlement, all of which is intended to be put towards substance use prevention and treatment efforts.

### Opioid Abatement Funds in Massachusetts

#### State Distribution

The state is receiving 60% of all funds (2)

- 100% of these funds will be placed into the statewide Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund to be used for supporting harm reduction, treatment, and recovery programs
- The RIZE Mosaic grant, which aims to strengthen municipal and non-profit capacity to address the opioid epidemic, is supported by these funds (3)

#### Local Distribution

Local municipalities are receiving the other 40% of the funds (2), equating to about \$360 million.

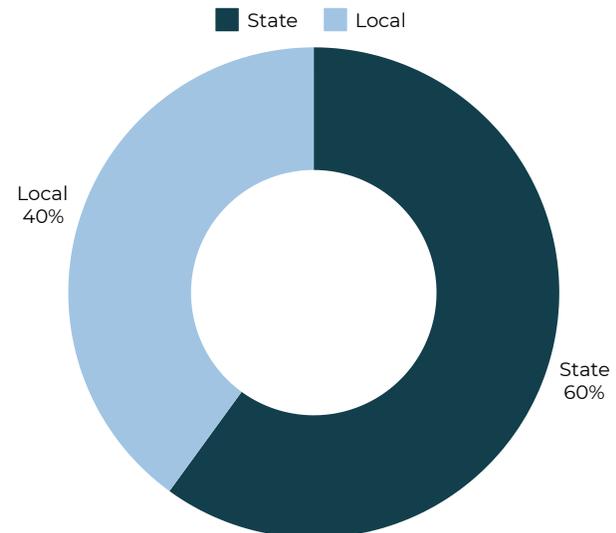
- Payments are being given directly to municipalities by the companies involved in the lawsuit
- These payments began in 2022 and will be disbursed over an 18 year period
- The municipal funds must also be put towards opioid prevention or treatment, though a variety of methods are approved for the funds (4)
- Municipalities are encouraged to do this work on a regional level through shared services infrastructure (4)

#### Local Distribution:

Distribution of funding was determined by an algorithm that was intended for county-wide distribution, where it accounts for opioids delivered to each county and federal data on opioid use (5).

Massachusetts does not have county-wide government infrastructure to support the allocation of the funds, and so they had to utilize a different algorithm that was designed for counties to allocate funding within their borders (5)

- A weakness of this model is that there is not federally available data on opioids at the local level. Therefore, funding distribution was based on town's operational spending in 2012 as a percentage of total county spending (5)
- Disparity: This has resulted in towns with hospitals, or who operate as the host of a regional school district, receiving more money regardless of population or disproportionate impact of the opioid epidemic (5)



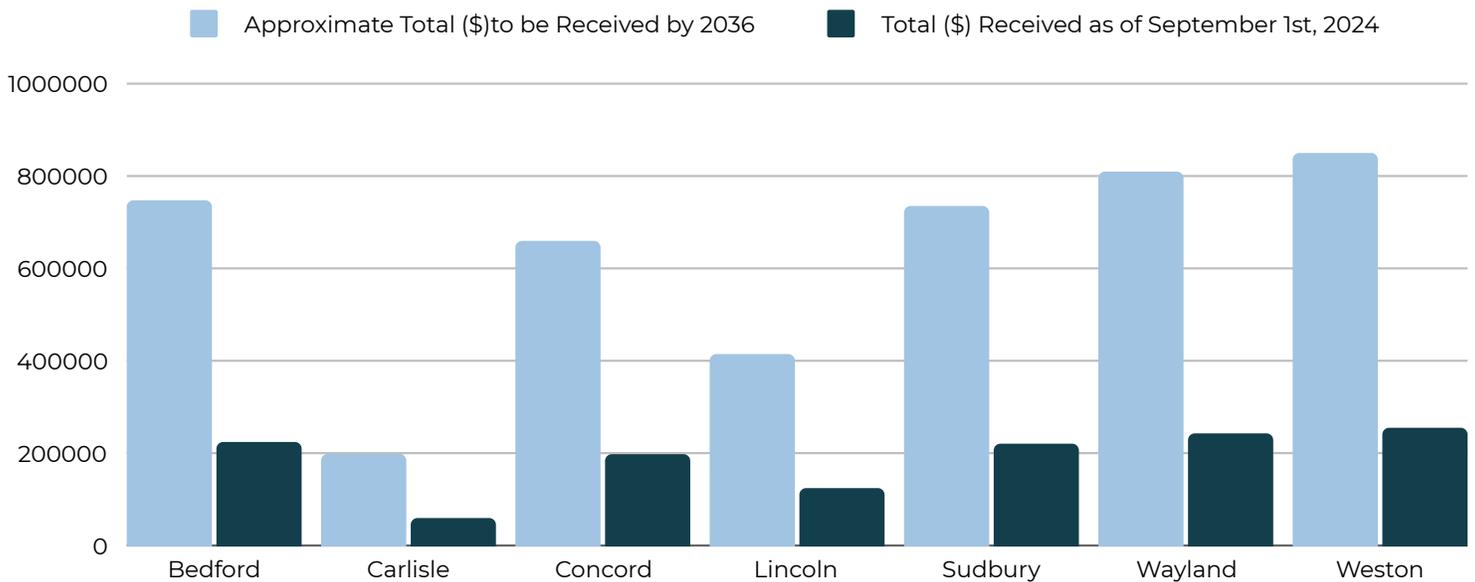
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## Great Meadows Public Health Collaborative – Regional Substance Use Funding

### Great Meadows Public Health Collaborative – Funding Distribution

- Six communities within the Great Meadows region have entered into an inter-municipal agreement to allocate a portion of their opioid settlement funds toward supporting a Regional Substance Use Prevention Coordinator.
  - Each community's contribution is proportional to its population within the region.
  - Wayland is funding its share of the coordinator position through alternative resources.



Municipality	Approximate Total to be Received by 2036 (\$)	Total Received as of September 1st, 2024 (\$)
Bedford	\$747,533.77	\$224,150.45
Carlisle	\$198,348.81	\$59,475.14
Concord	\$659,569.52	\$197,773.74
Lincoln	\$414,540.44	\$124,300.44
Sudbury	\$735,192.42	\$220,449.07
Wayland	\$809,532.22	\$242,740.01
Weston	\$849,968.49	\$254,865.57

### Resources

- CARE Massachusetts provides resources and technical assistance for the allocation and reporting of opioid abatement funds
- <https://caremass.org/resources/>
- Massachusetts Municipal Association conducted a webinar to provide guidance on eligible programs for opioid abatement funds
- <https://www.mma.org/resource/opioid-settlement-funds-key-components-and-eligible-programs/>

### References

- <https://www.naag.org/issues/opioids/>
- <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/learn-about-the-ags-statewide-opioid-settlements-with-opioid-industry-defendants>
- <https://mosaic.rizema.org/>
- <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-abatement-terms/download>
- <https://www.harvardpress.com/News/News-Articles/unsettled-how-harvard-landed-an-opioid-settlement-windfall-while-others-got-shortchanged?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEA>