

Opioid Settlement Funds

A Year in Review
2024 Annual Report



Background



Opioid Epidemic Background

EPIDEMIC TIMELINE

- 1995: Purdue Pharma introduces OxyContin
- 1999: Rise in prescription opioid overdose deaths
- 2010: Rapid increases in overdose deaths involving heroin
- 2013: Overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids increased significantly
- 2017: Fentanyl is the deadliest opioid in the illicit drug supply, responsible for 96% of overdose deaths in Milwaukee County

Impacts on Milwaukee County

Public Health Data: The overdose rate in Milwaukee County nearly ***tripled*** from 2014 to 2022. Overdoses resulting from the opioid epidemic ***claim one life every 16 hours*** in Milwaukee County.

National Opioid Settlement Outcome:

Settlement	Wisconsin Total	Milwaukee County Total	Milwaukee County Net (after attorney fees)
First Settlement (Distributors and Manufacturers)	\$420M	\$71M	\$56.6M
Second Settlement (Pharmacies)	\$321M	\$56.7M	\$45.4M
Third Settlement (Kroger)	\$21.7M	\$3M	\$2.4M
Additional Settlements	N/A	N/A	\$1.8M
Total			\$111.5M



Strategic Planning



Guiding Principles for the Fund

1. Supplement Existing and Evidence-based Programs –

Dedicate funds to enhance programs that have a proven record of success in the region or are promising practices nationally.

2. Fill Service Gaps – Invest in the continuum of services for opioid use (and other substance use, when related) where Milwaukee County's operating budget could not meet community needs through programming nor related data collection.

3. Align with County Strategy – Ensure program goals clearly advance efforts to "Bridge the Gap," "Invest in Equity" through upstream (population health) and downstream ("No Wrong Door") investments.

4. Address Racial Inequities – Leverage settlement funds to address racial, ethnic and other inequities that have been exacerbated by the opioid epidemic.

5. Prioritize Data and Program Evaluation – Track and analyze program data to better understand the impact of services in the community to allow for feedback looping and improvements.

6. Build Capacity – Dedicate resources within program budgets to ensure the County has the internal capacity to successfully implement and evaluate programs. Building the capacity of community-based organizations who are often closest to residents.

7. Support Limited- and Long-Term Interventions – Allocate funds to service categories (treatment, harm reductions, prevention, other strategies) at a rate that considers urgent, ongoing community needs with an intention to divert resources upstream over time.

8. Promote Partnerships – Collaborate with public and private organizations on programs that are likely to have collective impact through effective partnership and avoid duplication of efforts.

9. Engage Community – Prioritize strategies that have been informed by those who have lived and living experience with opioid use.

10. Consider the Ecosystem – Support and improve quality of life for children, families, and communities impacted by substance use.

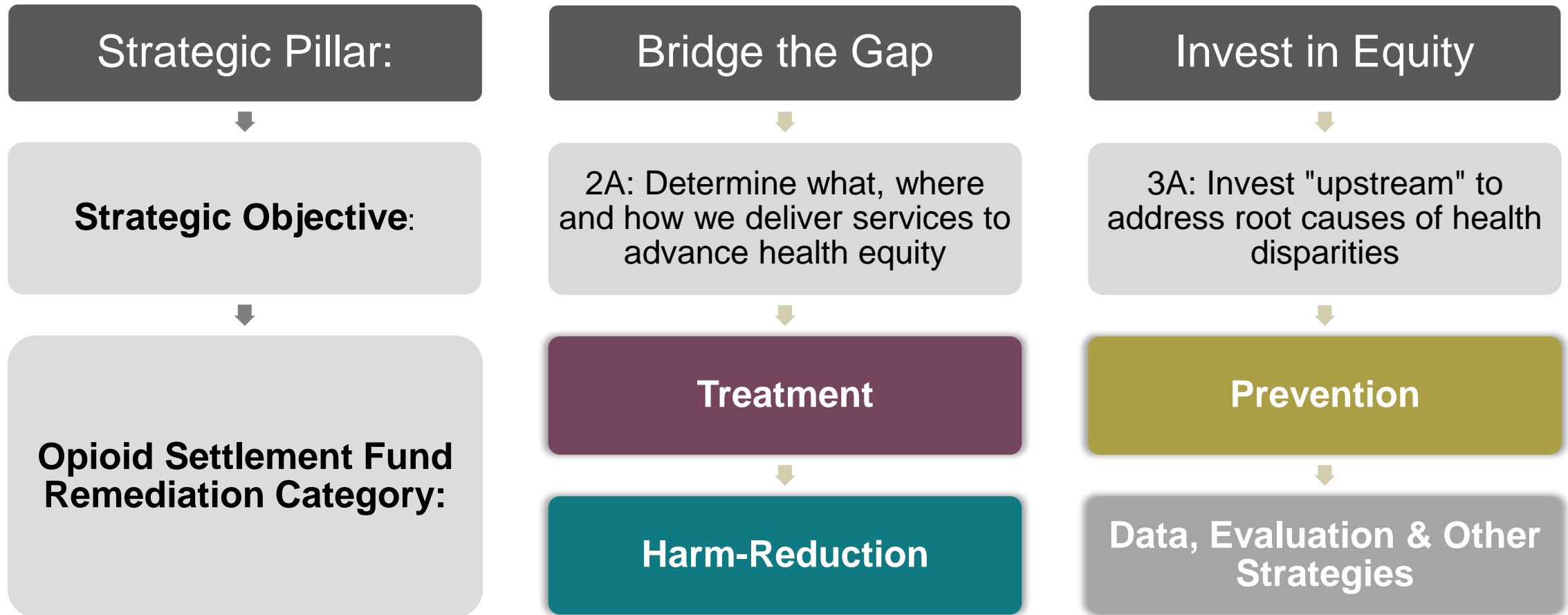
SETTLEMENT FUND

5-YEAR GOAL

Reduce fatal and non-fatal drug incidents in Milwaukee County, with no disparities across race/ethnicity.



Strategic Objective Alignment



Funding Objectives

Treatment

(1) Expand the availability of and access to low-threshold, evidence-based **treatment** options.

Harm-Reduction

(2) Expand the availability of and access to free **harm reduction** supplies, education, and training.

Prevention

(3) Increase education programs, healthy family programming and targeted interventions primary and secondary **prevention** approaches.

Data, Evaluation & Other Strategies

(4) **Evaluate** the effectiveness of programs this Fund supports and build Milwaukee County's capacity for SUD collective impact work.

...with a focus on areas and populations that are historically underserved.

Allocation Process



Allocation Process Components

A cross-department workgroup:

- reviewed a 2018 report by the City-County Heroin, Opioid, and Cocaine Task Force on how to address the opioid crisis,
- developed funding objectives and the proposal process including eligibility requirements, application materials, proposal review criteria, and scoring rubric,
- recruited an eight-person review panel of community stakeholders (75%) and County content experts (25%), and
- facilitated the recommendation of projects for fund authorization

Allocation Timeline

JAN-
MARCH

Proposal Phase: Milwaukee County service areas proposed programmatic expenses for up to three years and one-time equipment, technology or capital items.

MARCH -
MAY

Review Phase: The review panel scored proposals using criterion to make subject matter, equity-based recommendations that maximize the impact of funds.

MAY - JUNE

Approval Phase: The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approved fund authorization request for projects. Implementation launched.



Eligible Uses

Treatment – activities related to the treatment of opioid use disorder and any co-occurring substance use disorder or mental health condition.

Harm Reduction – activities that aim to reduce opioid-related problems and improve quality of life without primarily emphasizing sobriety or a reduction in use.

Prevention – activities related to the primary, secondary or tertiary prevention of opioid use disorder in children, youth or adults.

Other Strategies – activities related to research, training, evidence-based data collection, the surveillance of the opioid crisis, analyzing the effectiveness of the abatement strategies.



Opioid Settlement Fund Allocations

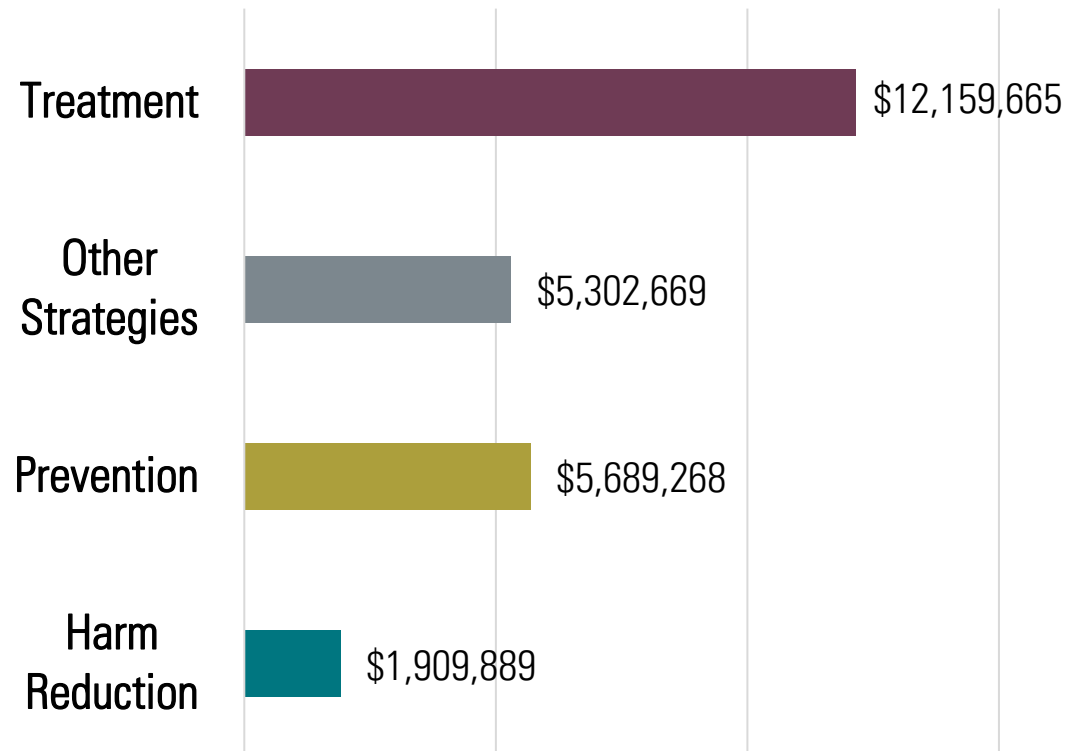
Cohort One (FY 23-25)

Cohort Two (FY 24-26)

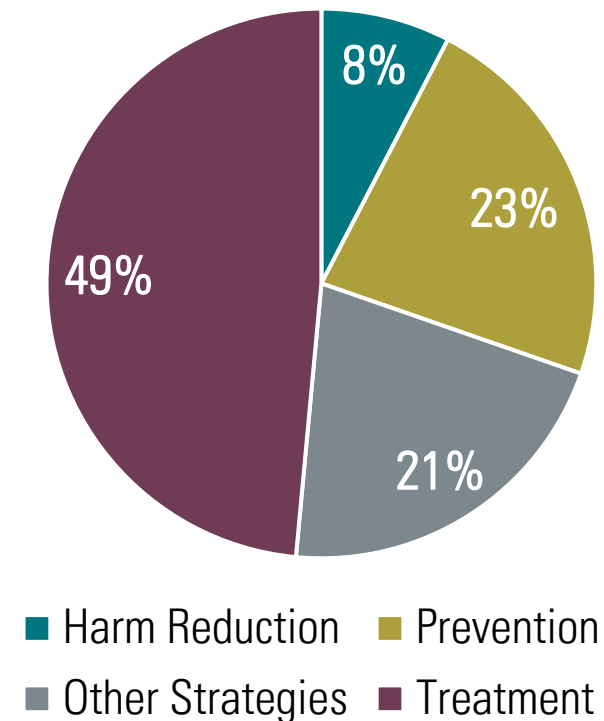


Allocations for Cohorts One and Two

Amount of Funding Approved in each Remediation Category



Percent of Approved Projects in Each Remediation Category



Remediation Category Portfolio



Treatment

Project	Department Leader	Approved Budget
Substance Use Disorder System Enhancement	Heath & Human Services	\$2,565,352
Medication Assisted Treatment - Behind the Walls	Health & Human Services	\$2,514,909
Filling Gaps in Community Paramedic Coverage	Emergency Management	\$2,373,988
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Capacity	Health & Human Services	\$1,071,140
PATH: Pre/Post Incarceration Access to Treatment and Healing	Emergency Management	\$1,066,966
Strengthening Opioid and Substance Use Education and Treatment for Justice Involved Youth	Health & Human Services	\$799,190
Opioid Treatment in the Prehospital Environment	Emergency Management	\$536,550
Homeless Outreach Project	Health & Human Services	\$481,570



Remediation Category Portfolio



Harm Reduction

Project	Department Leader	Approved Budget
Opioid Educator	Emergency Management	\$407,798
Respite Build-Out – Dedicated Harm Reduction Beds	Heather & Human Services	\$426,000
Harm Reduction Supplies	Health & Human Services	\$392,719
Harm Reduction Kit	Emergency Management	\$97,906
Narcan Deployment and Education	Sheriff's Office	\$66,500



Remediation Category Portfolio



Prevention

Project	Department Leader	Approved Budget
Coordination of Opioid Prevention Services Project	Health & Human Services	\$4,845,607
Aging and Disabilities Services Opioid Prevention Project	Health & Human Services	\$843,661

Remediation Category Portfolio



Other Strategies

Project	Department Leader	Approved Budget
ME Staffing needs	Medical Examiner	\$1,904,942
Prevalence of Adulterants and Opioid Overdoses in Black and Brown Communities	Health & Human Services	\$1,421,026
Harm Reduction Data Analytics	Emergency Management	\$719,909
Grief Outreach and Grief-Informed Care	Health & Human Services	\$6,30,295
Portable Body Cooler	Medical Examiner	\$192,448
Overdose Predication Model	Administration	\$29,000
ME Autopsy Carts	Medical Examiner	\$19,450

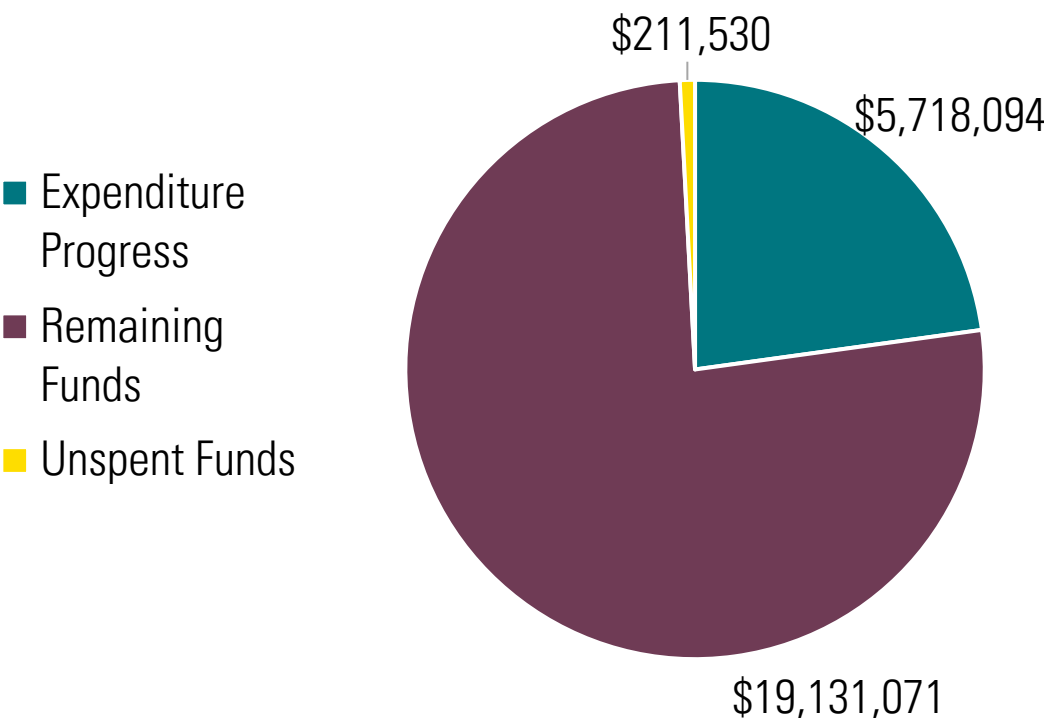


Year in Review 2024



Expenditure Progress

Expenditure Progress Through 2024



Opioid Settlement Funds

Opioid Educator – Emergency Medical Services

PROJECT OVERVIEW

In 2021 Milwaukee County saw 644 overdose fatalities and in 2022 that number eclipsed 700. The Harm Reduction Educator project aimed to add a Harm Reduction Educator position to the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) education team. The position's goal would be to collaborate with various entities within the county to provide knowledge and training to Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Law Enforcement, and other first responders to better understand and help those suffering from Opioid Use Disorder and overdoses. By providing training on CPR, naloxone use, and other life-saving interventions the intent is to create better outcomes for those directly impacted by opioids and their use.

Project Information

- Lead Department:** Office of Emergency Management
- Project Manager:** Jeff Matcha
- Remediation Category:** Harm Reduction
- Allocation Amount:** \$407,799

PROJECT POPULATION

To date, this project has primarily focused on relationship building within other Milwaukee County organizations such as the Department of Health and Human Services, Milwaukee County Transit Services, and Milwaukee County Parks. As the project progresses, OEM expects to expand and provide training and education on life-saving interventions for the general public.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

FINANCIAL PROGRESS

The Harm Reduction Educator Project was allocated **\$407,799** in Opioid Settlement Funds. The chart below reflects spending progress as of 12/31/2023.

A horizontal bar chart showing financial progress as of 12/31/2023. The bar is divided into three segments: Expenditures (maroon, \$136,871), Obligations (yellow, \$270,928), and Unspent Funds (teal, \$136,871). The x-axis represents the amount in dollars, ranging from \$0 to \$300,000.

The Harm Reduction Educator position was filled, onboarded, and set work. They quickly established connections with others in similar positions around the county and brought an established network of interested parties from around the state. They have worked with multiple county agencies to explain what trainings and opportunities exist and how OEM can assist in providing better bystander care to those impacted by opioid use.

One training was provided to the Milwaukee Libraries with tremendous feedback and a continued interest in additional training in naloxone use, CPR, and Stop the Bleed programs. There have also been efforts to identify the needs of first responders and develop training on Trauma Informed Care to better help responders interact and empathize with patients by more thoroughly understanding how a person's background and circumstance impact their lives.

PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES

As outlined below the goals of this project were intentionally broad. Filling the position of Harm Reduction Educator with a knowledgeable and experienced person helped to connect a variety of entities during the discovery phase of the project to identify and expand resources within Milwaukee County.

Reach and Engagement

- **7,900+ residents reached** through treatment, harm reduction, prevention, and outreach activities
- **550+ older adults** engaged through the Aging & Disabilities Services opioid prevention project
- **200+ EMS providers and first responders** trained on MAT and overdose intervention
- **20+ community events** hosted or attended by County-funded prevention teams



Progress in Treatment



- **1,500+ individuals** accessed or were referred to substance use treatment services
- New **pre/post-incarceration treatment model (PATH)** launched for justice-involved individuals
- **Community Paramedic Program** expanded coverage to fill key geographic service gaps



Progress in Harm Reduction



- **1,200+ Narcan kits** and harm reduction supplies distributed
- **CORE Outreach Team** launched to provide direct engagement in overdose hotspots
- **Respite harm reduction beds** prepared for launch in partnership with community providers



Progress in Prevention



- **School-based and youth-focused programming** expanded under CYFS efforts
- **Grief-informed care pilot** introduced to address trauma in families affected by overdose
- **Senior residents** in high-risk areas were educated



Progress in Other Strategies



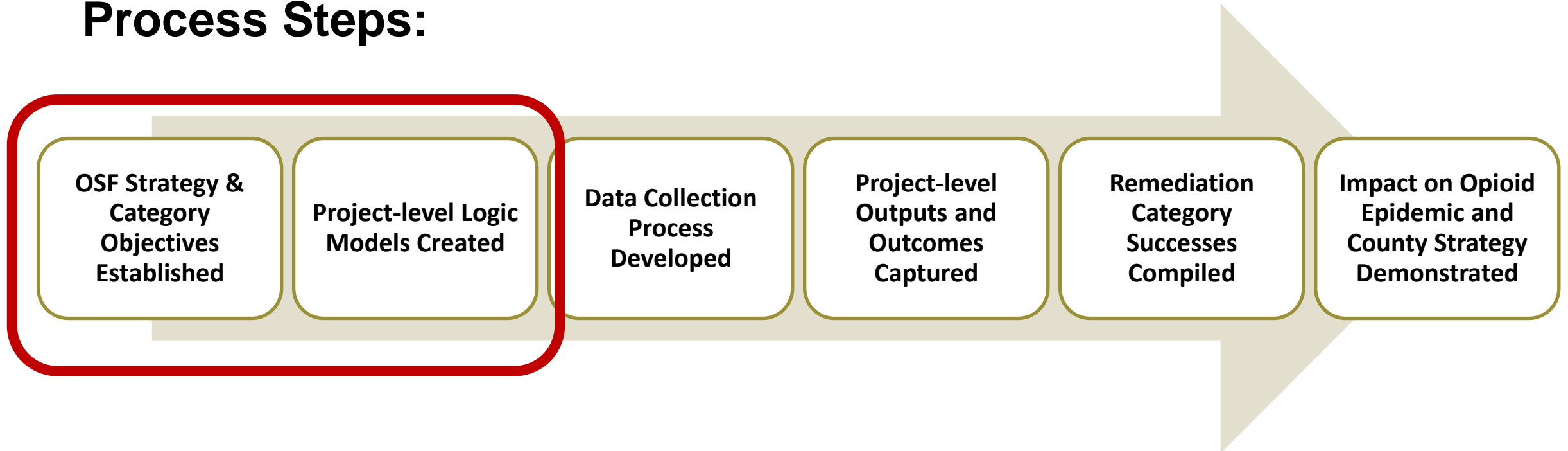
- **Overdose risk prediction** model was developed
- **Logic models** for all funded projects were created
- **Harm reduction dashboard** is in development
- **Performance tracking systems** are being established



Evaluation Framework

Framework development is in progress and will inform programmatic strategies, project investments, and best practices.

Process Steps:





**MILWAUKEE
COUNTY**