

Opioid Settlement Funds

A Year in Review
2025 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
- 2023: Opioid related deaths decline. Milwaukee County allocates its first cohort of projects.

Impacts on 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
Remnant Defendants Settlement	TBD	TBD	TBD
Secondary Manufacturers	TBD	TBD	TBD
Purdue/Sackler	\$80 Million	TBD	TBD
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.



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

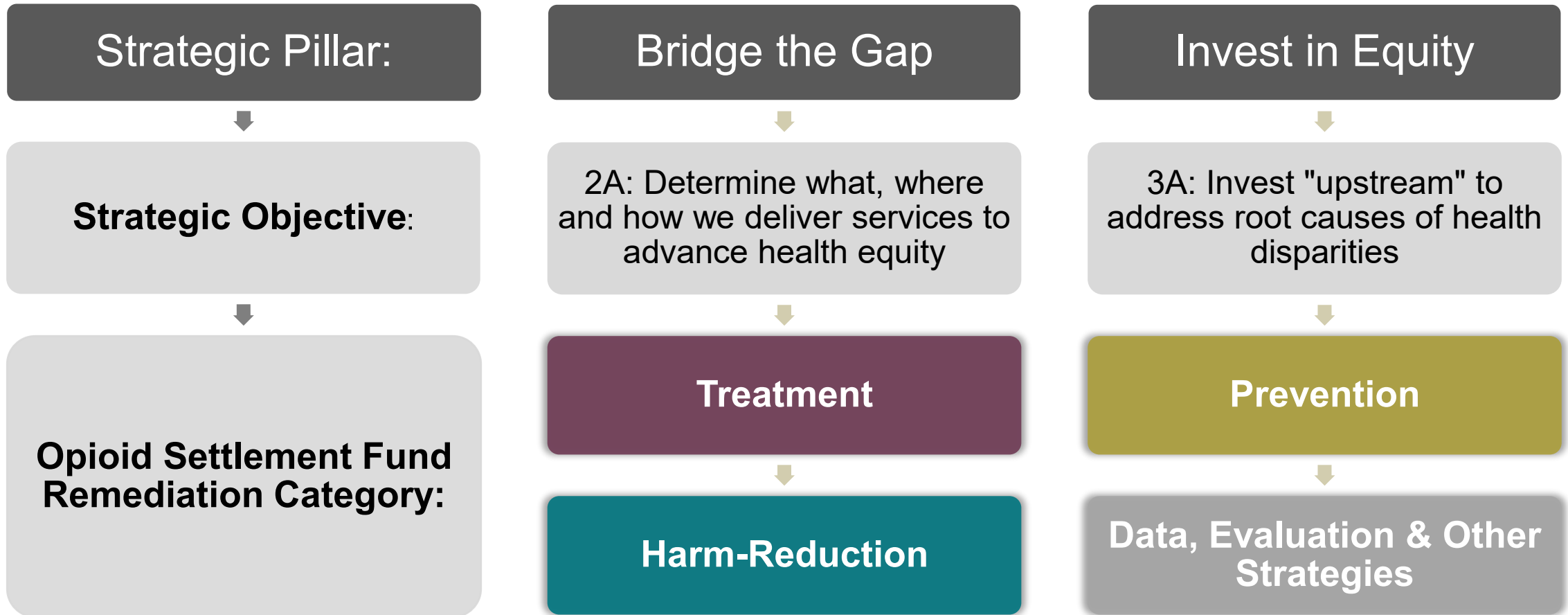
(3) Increase education programs, healthy family programming and targeted interventions primary and secondary **prevention** approaches.

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.

Strategic Objective Alignment



Allocation Process



Allocation Process Creation

In 2022, a cross-department workgroup:

- 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%),
- facilitated the recommendation of projects for funding authorization, and
- by 2026, four cohorts of projects will have been allocated

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

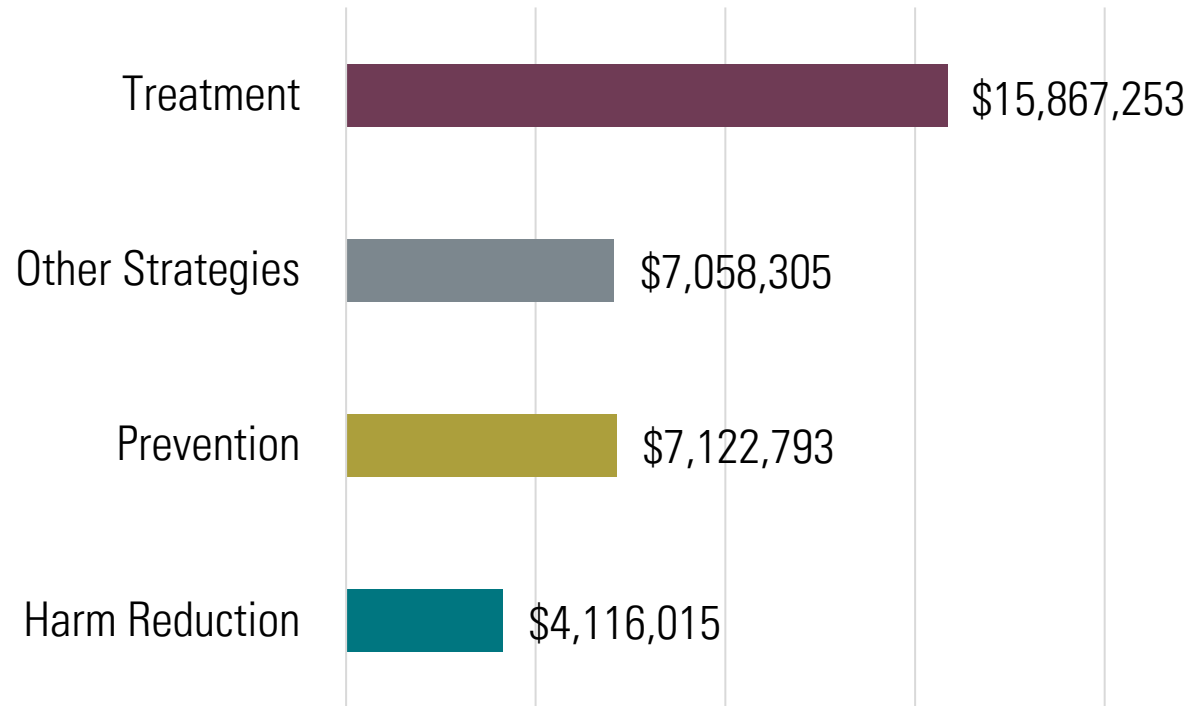
Cohort One (FY 23-25)

Cohort Two (FY 24-26)

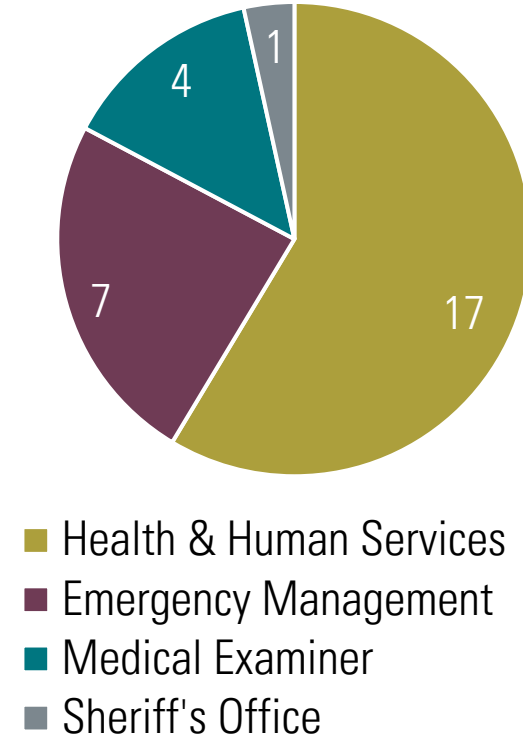


Allocations for Cohorts 1-3

Amount of Funding Approved in each Remediation Category



Number of Projects Funded by Department



Remediation Category Portfolio



Treatment

Project	Department Leader	Cohort One Approved Budget	Cohort Two Approved Budget	Cohort Three Approved Budget
Substance Use Disorder System Enhancement	Heath & Human Services	\$2,565,352	\$2,565,352	\$1,412,501
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	\$1,821,140		
PATH: Pre/Post Incarceration Access to Treatment and Healing	Emergency Management		\$1,066,966	
Strengthening Youth Justice	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	Cohort One Approved Budget	Cohort Two Approved Budget	Cohort Three Approved Budget
Opioid Educator	Emergency Management	\$407,798		
Respite Build-Out – Dedicated Harm Reduction Beds	Health & Human Services		\$426,000	
Harm Reduction Supplies	Health & Human Services	\$910,889		\$1,719,145
CORE Team	Emergency Management	\$97,906		
Narcan Deployment and Education	Sheriff's Office	\$66,500		

Remediation Category Portfolio



Prevention

Project	Department Leader	Cohort One Approved Budget	Cohort Two Approved Budget	Cohort Three Approved Budget
Coordination of Opioid Prevention Services Project	Health & Human Services	\$4,845,607		\$2,295,087
Aging and Disabilities Services Opioid Prevention Project	Health & Human Services	\$843,661		\$1,018,341
Prevention Integration	Health & Human Services			\$415,184

Remediation Category Portfolio



Other Strategies

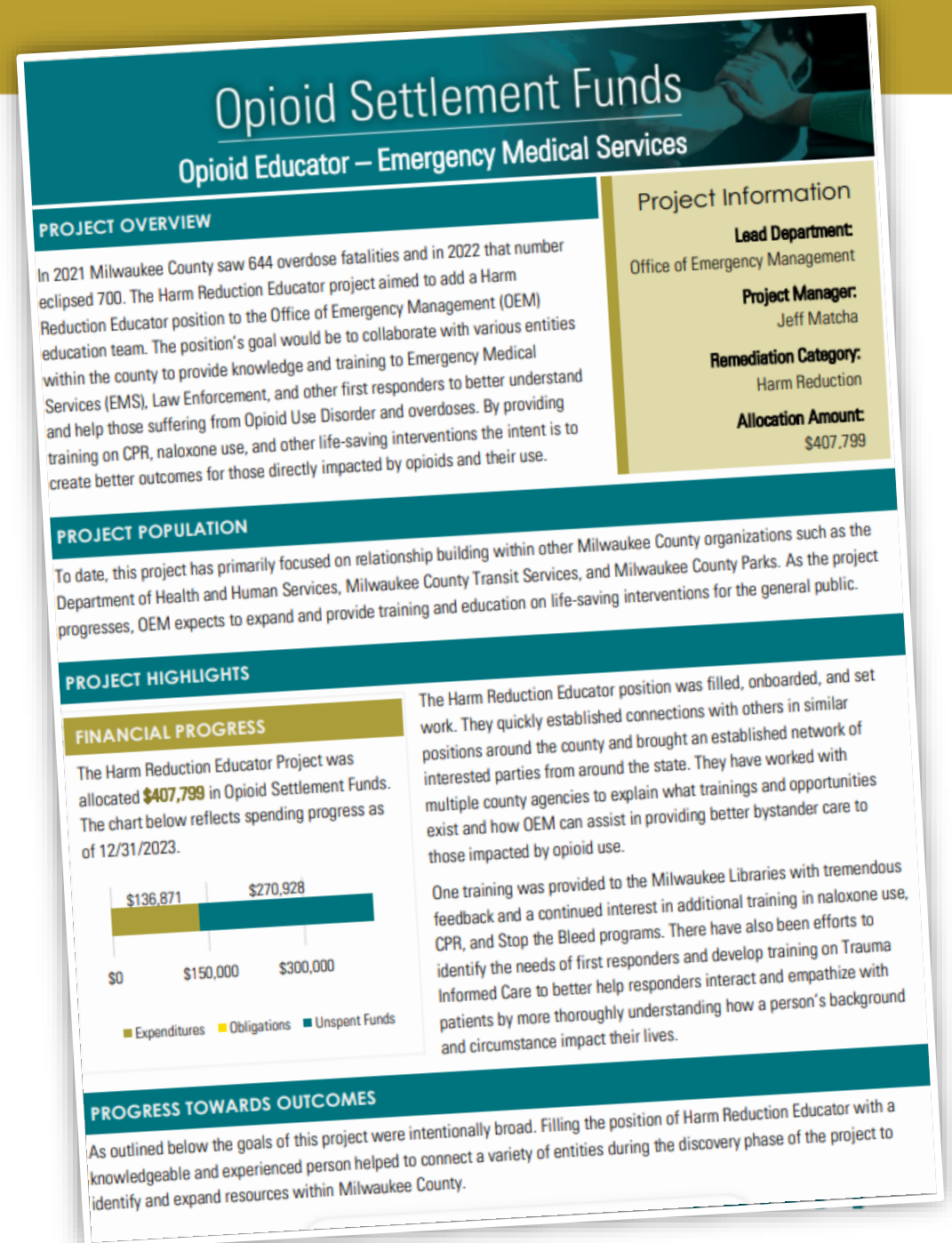
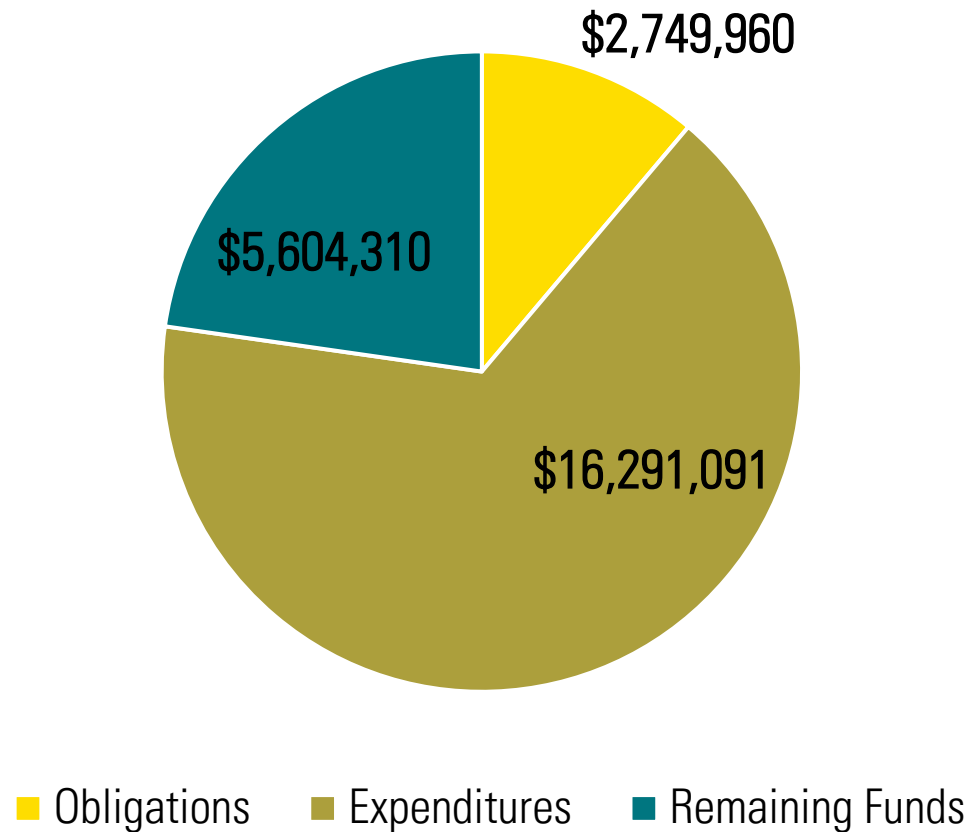
Project	Department Leader	Cohort One Approved Budget	Cohort Two Approved Budget	Cohort Three Approved Budget
ME Staffing needs	Medical Examiner	\$2,290,541		\$1,755,636
Prevalence of Adulterants and Opioid Overdoses in Black and Brown Communities	Health & Human Services		\$1,421,026	
Harm Reduction Data Analytics	Emergency Management	\$719,909		\$487,777
Grief Outreach and Grief-Informed Care	Health & Human Services		\$630,295	
Portable Body Cooler	Medical Examiner	\$192,448		
Overdose Predication Model	Administration		\$29,000	
ME Autopsy Carts	Medical Examiner	\$19,450		

Year in Review 2025



Expenditure Progress

Expenditure Progress Through 2025



Progress in Treatment



- More than **7,000 individuals** were engaged through MH programs
- **1,114 individuals** were served through the substance use system of care
- **197 individuals** received MAT while incarcerated and **97%** of those released were connected with ongoing care
- **686 individuals** were supported through treatment-related housing costs

Substance Use System of Care

- 846 received recovery support coordination
- 732 received medically monitored residential treatment
- 281 received bridge housing
- 58 received outpatient/day treatment or medication-assisted treatment

Progress in Harm Reduction



- 2,900+ naloxone kits were distributed throughout the community
- 25,000+ harm reduction kits were distributed through vending machines
- 19 harm reduction vending machines were deployed across Milwaukee County



Progress in Prevention



- More than **11,500 older adults** were engaged through targeted outreach, education, and community events
- **75,000+ prevention and harm reduction supplies** distributed through community-based events
- Public awareness and prevention messaging **reached over 800,000 individuals**



Progress in Other Strategies



- **12 data dashboards** were developed to track overdose trends and inform response strategies
- Public overdose dashboard reached **2,800+ users** and **over 5,000 views**
- Medical Examiner capacity improvements reduce the death **investigation timeline from 124 days to 49 days**
- **2,200+ toxicology screenings** and **500+ overdose-related death investigations** conducted to support surveillance and prevention





**MILWAUKEE
COUNTY**