



# NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS

*Leading the Way to Healthier Communities*

September 2024

## Harm Reduction Newsletter

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### Featured Resources

#### Directing Opioid Settlement Funds to Reduce Crime and Recidivism

The National Institute on Drug Abuse reports that approximately 65 percent of the U.S. prison population has an active substance use disorder (SUD), with an additional 20 percent under the influence of drugs or alcohol when committing their crimes.

In CHES Health's, "[Directing Opioid Settlement Funds to Reduce Crime and Recidivism](#)," they explore the potential benefits of allocating a portion of the \$54 billion opioid settlement funds to support justice-involved individuals struggling with SUD to create lasting, meaningful change for these individuals, their families, and society.

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#### Promising Practices for Collaboration on State and Local Opioid Settlement Spending

Over the next fifteen years, over \$50 billion will be distributed to states and counties through opioid litigation settlements. To prevent duplicative spending, coordination between counties and state governments is essential to ensure that funds reach the areas of greatest need, and enhance statewide alignment.

Explore valuable insights from case studies in Colorado, Indiana, Minnesota, North Carolina, and Virginia by reading the full report from the National Association of Counties (NACo). [Click here to read!](#)

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#### NACCHO Pulse Check on Opioid Settlement Funds | **Respond by October 4**

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is conducting a pulse check to understand how local health departments (LHDs) and syringe services programs (SSPs) are engaging with opioid settlement funds. Every U.S. state and Washington, DC, are receiving funds from lawsuits against opioid manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacies. While harm reduction is identified as a core strategy in the national settlement agreement, states and localities are not required to implement these strategies, leading to varied priorities and allocation plans.

NACCHO invites one representative from each LHD or SSP, ideally the person most knowledgeable about their organization's involvement with settlement funds, to complete the pulse check by October 4, 2024. The survey will take 10-15 minutes, and responses will remain confidential, with findings shared only in aggregate. Your feedback will help NACCHO support LHDs and community harm reduction partners in navigating the complex landscape of opioid settlements. [Take the pulse check here!](#)

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## Nominate Your Jurisdiction! Awards for Excellence in the Application of the Opioid Litigation Principles

[The Opioid Litigation Principles](#) offer guidance for state and local decision-makers on effectively allocating the funds they will receive from the opioid litigation settlements. Endorsed by over 60 organizations nationwide, these principles are:

- Spend the money to save lives
- Use evidence to guide the spending
- Invest in youth prevention
- Focus on racial equity
- Develop a fair and transparent process

To recognize jurisdictions that have successfully incorporated these principles in their decision making process, nominations are being accepted for the *Awards for Excellence in the Application of the Opioid Litigation Principles*! Awards will be given quarterly, and will be presented in two categories: 1) States, and 2) Local: Cities or Counties.

Nominations can be submitted either by the jurisdiction itself or by external groups familiar with the implemented process. [Click here to learn more and submit a nomination!](#)

## Upcoming Events

### **New York State Overdose Awareness Day | September 19, 2024 at 3:00 PM**

The fourth annual Virtual Overdose Awareness Day event will take place on September 19th, 2024, with the goal of engaging communities across New York State. Organized by the New York State Department of Health's Office of Drug User Health, this free, virtual event will commemorate and honor the individuals and programs dedicated to reducing stigma and promoting health equity throughout New York State. These efforts focus on prioritizing and advancing harm reduction skills, services, and practices. [Click here to register!](#)

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### **NYS Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Partners Meeting | October 8, 2024 at 1:00 PM**

Join the NYSDOH Office of Drug User Health on the next OFR Partners meeting, which is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, October 8, from 1:00 - 2:30 PM. [Click here to register!](#)

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### **New NYSACHO Webinar! Building Effective Leave it Behind Naloxone Programming with First Responders | October 16, 2024 at 11:00 AM**

Join this NYSACHO webinar for a presentation and discussion with the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department (OH) to learn how they have developed, sustained, and expanded a Leave it Behind Program with first responders through stigma reduction and education. [Click here to register!](#)

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### **2025 National Forum on Overdose Fatality Review | February 11-12 in Portland, OR**

Save the dates for this forum, which will convene multidisciplinary members who participate, lead, support, or are interested in overdose fatality reviews (OFRs). The theme for this event is *Turning the Tide*, which will highlight the advances that OFRs and communities have made in collaborating to prevent substance misuse and future overdose deaths. Participants at any level of experience are invited to attend! If you are interested in presenting at this conference, the [Call for Abstracts](#) is now open until **September 30**.

There is no registration fee to attend - more information on registration will be available soon. Visit <https://www.ofrtools.org/learn/forums> to stay informed.

# Funding Opportunities

## NYS Coroner Training Program | **Applications due October 3, 2024**

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) AIDS Institute (AI), Office of Drug User Health announces the availability of New York State funds to develop a formal, standardized training program for coroners, Medical Examiners, and death investigators in New York State. The goal is to partner with eligible applicants across the state to help develop the curriculum based on national standards and best practices, and then subsequently deliver the training. The intent of the Request for Applications is to fund an agency for \$200,000 annually for two (2) years.

This Request for Applications (RFA) has been posted on the following websites:

- [NYS Statewide Financial System \(SFS\)](#) - Search using the SFS #s in the Event ID field: **DCCTPR2025**
- [New York State Department of Health](#)

In order to apply for this Request for Applications, eligible applicants must be prequalified in the Statewide Financial System and must submit an application via the Statewide Financial System.

### KEY DATES

- Request for Applications Release Date: August 15, 2024
- Questions Due: September 6, 2024, by 4:00 PM ET
- Questions, Answers and Updates Posted: (on or about): September 24, 2024
- Letters of Interest Due: September 27, 2024, by 4:00 PM ET
- Applications Due: October 3, 2024, by 4:00 PM ET

## Articles and Reports

**\*\*Specific to NY**

- (08/26/2024) [Indivior Announces BARDA's First Order of OPVEE® to Combat Opioids and Aid in National Preparedness](#)
- (08/23/2024) [North Country Community College offers scholarships for addiction services\\*\\*](#)
- (08/22/2024) [Provisional data shows overdose deaths decreasing in NYS\\*\\*](#)
- (08/09/2024) [Purdue, after playing major role in US opioid epidemic, wins FDA nod for overdose-reversal injection](#)
- (08/08/2024) [Trends in Drug Overdose Deaths by Intent and Drug Categories, United States, 1999–2022](#)
- (08/08/2024) [FDA Approves Nalmefene Auto-Injector for Opioid Overdose](#)
- (08/06/2024) [Harm Reduction Policies for Perinatal Substance Use Instead of Criminalization: Better Outcomes for Families](#)
- (08/06/2024) [Opioid policy expert discusses treating occasional users who are 'opioid naïve'](#)
- (08/06/2024) [Record Number of Drug Overdoses Reported But Unemployment Income Can Have Buffer Effect](#)
- (08/06/2024) [Survey Demonstrates Gaps, Opportunities to Address Substance Use, Opioids and Overdose in the Workplace](#)

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