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# Opioid Advisory Council Strategic Plan

In June 2025, the New Jersey Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council released its inaugural Strategic Plan, a comprehensive five-year roadmap to guide the equitable and data-driven investment of opioid settlement funds across the state. The plan centers on saving lives, reducing harm, and improving long-term outcomes for individuals and communities impacted by the overdose crisis. The Strategic Plan is the result of a 15-month planning process led in partnership with the Center for Research and Evaluation on Education and Human Services (CREEHS) at Montclair State University. The process included a comprehensive Needs Assessment, interviews with stakeholders and individuals with lived experience, and ongoing collaboration with service providers and local organizations.

Key highlights of the Strategic Plan include:

- A vision of substance use disorder as a health condition that should be met with equitable access to services.
- Four key investment areas: housing, harm reduction, treatment, and coordinated wraparound services.
- Twelve core strategies designed to reduce overdose deaths, improve treatment access, and address the social determinants of health.
- A robust monitoring and evaluation framework to track the impact of investments and ensure accountability.

The Strategic Plan is designed to be adaptive, evolving over time in response to changing needs, data, and community feedback. Annual progress reviews, stakeholder engagement, and transparent reporting will ensure the plan remains responsive and effective.



[Full Plan](#)

The *New Jersey Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan)* is designed to guide the New Jersey Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council's (Advisory Council) funding recommendations over a five-year period (2025 through 2030). It focuses on the priorities that emerged from the Advisory Council's review and interpretation of the 2024 *Needs Assessment* findings. While many important needs emerged, this *Strategic Plan* focuses on strategies that Advisory Council members collectively agreed upon. It reflects careful consideration and deliberation among Advisory Council members, with a commitment to centering the lived and living experiences of individuals and families affected by substance use disorder in New Jersey.

This *Strategic Plan* is a dynamic, living document. It requires regular review of its progress and alignment with the latest evidence, public input, available resources, and context to maintain its effectiveness and responsiveness to New Jersey and the communities affected by substance use disorder.

## VISION

Individuals and communities will view substance use disorder as a health condition, and those impacted by it will have equitable access to treatment and long-term support services that meet their basic needs, reduce harm, and foster recovery and wellbeing, ultimately **reducing drug-related fatalities**.

## MISSION

The Advisory Council will provide data-driven and equity-focused recommendations for the allocation and distribution of opioid settlement funds in New Jersey. The Advisory Council will engage in the following ongoing activities to accomplish this mission.



### TRANSPARENCY

The Advisory Council will use a systematic process to recommend how to allocate funds.



### FEEDBACK

The Advisory Council will routinely gather, review, make public, and strongly consider input from relevant stakeholder groups with a focus on including individuals and families with lived and living experience.



### DATA TRACKING & EVALUATION

The Advisory Council will continuously monitor historical, county-level, and statewide data to identify shifts in trends over time and track the impact of funded initiatives.



### REFINEMENT

The Advisory Council will review and adjust the *Strategic Plan* in accordance with changes to available funding streams, drug supply, populations disproportionately affected, and available evidence.



### COMMUNICATION

The Advisory Council will routinely share information about its activities and funding opportunities with public stakeholders via their established networks and listservs.

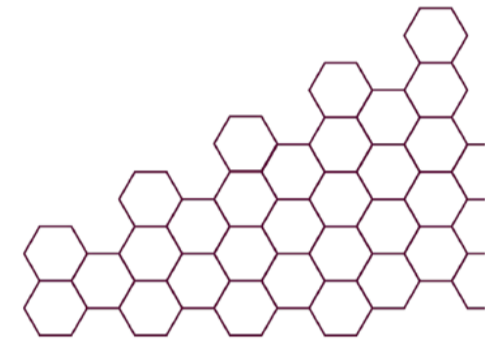
## [At-A-Glance](#)

Beginning in 2022, the State of New Jersey and qualifying counties and municipalities (subdivisions) began receiving settlement payments from major nationwide litigation and settlements that involve the opioid industry. The New Jersey Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council (Advisory Council) was established in 2023 to make recommendations for how the State's share of the opioid settlement funds should be allocated. Since 2023, the Advisory Council has used public input portals, listening sessions, and a roundtable discussion to hear the experiences and perspectives of those most closely affected by the risks of drug use, substance use disorder (including opioid use disorders), and the overdose crisis across New Jersey. This public input was reviewed and integrated by the Advisory Council to make three sets of funding recommendations for investing settlement funds to date ([July 2023](#), [February 2024](#), and [October 2024](#)).

The set of funding recommendations made by the Advisory Council included support for the development of a *Strategic Plan* to guide the ongoing allocation of remaining settlement funds. This five-year *New Jersey Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan)* is the result of that work. It presents a data-informed roadmap to guide recommendations for using opioid settlement funds in New Jersey through 2030. The *Strategic Plan* is designed with flexibility in mind so that it can evolve in response to shifting community needs, emerging research, and changes in available funding. This document explains how the plan was developed and lays out the vision, mission, guiding principles, goals, and strategies of the plan. As well, it includes a framework for monitoring and evaluation that outlines key performance indicators to measure ongoing progress.

## PLANNING PROCESS

The Advisory Council used a two-phase process to develop the *Strategic Plan* from January 2024 through March 2025. It partnered with the Center for Research and Evaluation on Education and Human Services (CREEHS) at Montclair State University to facilitate the process.



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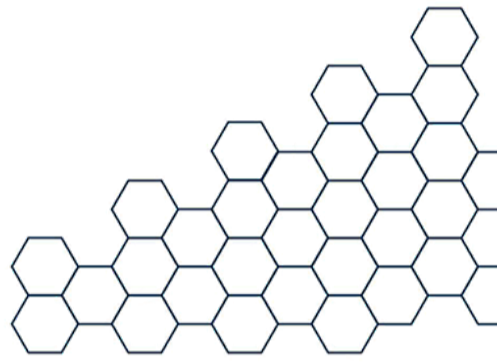
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