



# Opioid Settlement Strategy

City of Tacoma | Office of Strategy

Community Vitality and Safety  
April 13, 2023



## Agenda



- Opioid Settlement Background
- Opioid Abatement Council
- Regional Partnership
- Next Steps and Timeline



# Opioid Settlement Background



## Funding from Settlements

- Lawsuits for impacts of opioid overprescription/abuse
- \$952 M to WA
  - 50% to state, 50% to local gov's
- Local gov's must sign on to One Washington MOU
- \$48.5 M total in Pierce County over 17 years
  - Settlement payment terms vary from 5-17 years

## Allowable Uses

- Treatment
- Planning
- Prevention
- Education
- Training
- Equipment

## Tacoma's Settlement Structure

- Distributor Settlement: Up to \$7.1 M over 17 years
- Additional Settlements: Up to \$6.66 M additional

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# Opioid Abatement Council



## Purpose of Opioid Abatement Council (OAC):

- Create a regional reporting agreement for the settlement
- Auditing functions for regional settlement spending (allowable or not)
- Spending authority for jurisdictions that forego their settlement payment
- Reporting and communications on regional spending (both regional pooling spending and individual jurisdictional spending)
- Up to 10% admin costs for operation of OAC

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## Spending Options for Jurisdictions



1. **Forego Funds**: OAC determines how funds are spent
2. **Spend Directly**: Administer RFP process for funds, report funding decisions and expenditures to OAC
3. **Pool Funds**: ILA or MOU to finalize agreement of how funds are awarded and used, amount each party will contribute, and reporting to OAC
4. **Pool some funds and spend the rest directly**



## Regional Partnership/ Pooling



- Separate from the OAC, jurisdictions will be able to pool funds through regional agreement(s).
- Jurisdictions may choose to use as much or little of their settlement funds for pooling.
- Tacoma is committed to regional pooling in order to ensure sustainable, effective treatment services are available Countywide.

## Next Steps



### Formation of the OAC

- Must be completed by June 30 for receipt of additional settlement funding
- Jurisdictional legal teams currently working on agreement language
- Tacoma likely to have one seat on a five seat OAC, appointed by City Council

### Development of Regional Agreement

- Continued discussions between elected leaders about shared priorities
- Continued coordination between staff working on mental and behavioral health
- Formation of and formal agreement for spending plan
- No current timeline for finalized regional agreement



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