



TO: Elizabeth Pauli
FROM: Jacques Colon, Chief Strategy Officer
COPY: Mayor, City Council, City Clerk, City Attorney
SUBJECT: Interlocal Agreement for the creation of a regional Opioid Abatement Council (OAC) as required by Opioid Settlements
DATE: June 1, 2023

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

The City of Tacoma is participating as a Party to litigation with opioid Distributors and Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants alongside the State of Washington and 33 of its local political subdivisions, including counties and cities and towns with a population of over 10,000.

The Opioid Litigation is expected to result in settlements and/or judgments with direct money payments to the City of Tacoma and other Parties to the litigation.

In order to comply with the One Washington Memorandum of Understanding (One WA MOU), Pierce County has been designated as a region and must form an Opioid Abatement Council (OAC) to fulfill auditing functions for spending of Opioid Litigation settlement funds.

In order to receive settlement funding, each Party must sign onto the OAC Interlocal Agreement, and has the opportunity to select a representative to serve as a Council Member to the PCOAC.

BACKGROUND:

This Department's Recommendation is Based On:

As stated in the One Washington Memorandum of Understanding between Washington Municipalities, the people of the State of Washington and its communities have been harmed by entities within the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain who manufacture, distribute, and dispense prescription opioids.

The State of Washington and certain Local Governments, including Tacoma and Pierce County, are engaged in litigation seeking to hold these entities within the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain of prescription opioids accountable for the damage they have caused to community members and Local Governments.

Local Governments and elected officials share a common desire to abate and alleviate the impacts of harms caused by these entities within the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain throughout the State of Washington, and strive to ensure that principals of equity and equitable service delivery are factors considered in the allocation and use of Opioid Funds.

By signing onto this ILA to create an OAC, the City of Tacoma is fulfilling the requirement of the One WA MOU and creating the conditions to receive the Opioid Litigation funding.

It should be noted that signing onto this OAC ILA fulfills the auditing requirement of the One WA MOU, but does not determine or influence how the City of Tacoma may ultimately choose to use Opioid Litigation funds.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:



Tacoma residents have consistently asked the City for improved responses to the many impacts of the opioid crisis. Residents have consistently asked for the City to do more about drug abuse issues throughout the community, especially with youth and residents experiencing homelessness. This input has been heard through processes about the biennial budget, the community survey, and engagement around specific projects and issues around the city. This input has also impacted City of Tacoma responses, including the implementation of additional treatment service options and the development of a Behavioral Health Crisis Response Team within the Tacoma Fire Department. Additional resources to develop or expand new responses to the Opioid crisis will directly respond to community feedback and engagement.

Additional community engagement will be done in the next phases of this litigation process, which will focus on best uses of the funding within the allowable uses of the litigation agreement.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Identify which Tacoma 2025 strategic goals your legislation most relates to, and then identify the [Equity Index Score](#) for those goals in the geography your proposal will affect. Select the indicator(s) this legislation is most related to, then briefly explain how this legislation will impact the selected indicator(s) and/or improve the Equity Index Score. *Use the dropdowns below and refer to guide for more information.*

Please state how this legislation will reduce racial and other inequities, disparities, or discrimination to under-represented communities. Please state what positive impacts on equity, equality, diversity or inclusion, if any, would result from enacting this legislation.

Equity and Accessibility: (Mandatory)

Although the opioid epidemic takes many shapes and forms, those most impacted by the opioid epidemic are often those who have the fewest resources and supports to successfully recover. We also know that opioid abuse is often related to trauma, and that communities that experience trauma disproportionately are also disproportionately at risk of opioid abuse. For these reasons, short-term actions to address opioid abuse do not adequately get at the need for upstream, preventative investments to improve the conditions that lead to negative health outcomes, including opioid abuse. In the cases of both immediate action and longer-term preventative work, the City maintains a strong commitment to continuing to approach the work with an anti-racist lens.

Economy/Workforce: Equity Index Score: Select Index Score.

- Increase positive public perception related to the Tacoma economy.
- Increase the availability of industry-specific education programs to support identified growth sectors

Education: Equity Index Score: Select Index Score.

- Increase the number of college students that find employment and remain in Tacoma after post-secondary completion.
- Increase digital access and equity across the city.

Civic Engagement: Equity Index Score: Select Index Score.

Elected officials, boards, commissions, and volunteer leadership will reflect the diversity of the Tacoma community.



Increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma.

Livability: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity

Improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, in alignment with the community health needs assessment and CHIP, for all Tacoma residents

Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).

Better addressing the impacts of the opioid crisis will both improve the health of those who are struggling with opioid abuse, but will also positively impact the health of their families. This includes the potential to reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), which have a significant negative impact on health. Additionally, helping people address opioid abuse will improve perceptions of public safety and quality of life, especially when considering the impacts we could make with regard to addressing co-occurring disorders amongst residents experiencing homelessness.

ALTERNATIVES:

Presumably, your recommendation is not the only potential course of action; please discuss other alternatives or actions that City Council or staff could take. Please use table below.

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Do Not Sign onto ILA		Forfeit Opioid Litigation funds
2. Wait to Sign onto ILA	More time to review ILA	Potential to miss June 30 One WA MOU deadline, delay funds

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

Please include what performance measures and/or benchmarks you have identified that indicate success. Explain how you will follow up with staff and/or Council to report success or changes.

This ILA will respond to the requirement to form an OAC under the One WA MOU. Evaluation of this auditing function will be whether it is able to fulfill the requirements under the MOU, including the development of an annual auditing report about spending from each Party.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Clearly state your recommendation and explain how your recommendation addresses the issue. Include next steps if appropriate. If you have a recommended effective date, enter here.

Staff recommends signing onto the OAC Interlocal Agreement in order to receive settlement funding and meet the June 30 deadline to sign onto the formation of the Pierce County OAC as part of the One WA MOU.



FISCAL IMPACT:

Please provide a short summary of the fiscal impacts associated with the grant, agreement, policy action, or other action.

No fiscal impact.

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1. Opioid Settlement		Legal settlement 6223050	\$13,227,478.37
2.			
TOTAL			

What Funding is being used to support the expense? New funding

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium's current budget?

NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW

We have been waiting to find out the nature and amount of the settlements before determining the budget impact.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

YES

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

YES

Will the legislation change the City's FTE/personnel counts?

NO

Please enter Explanation.

ATTACHMENTS:

List attachments using bullet points.

- Pierce County Opioid Abatement Council (OAC) Interlocal Agreement
- One Washington Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)