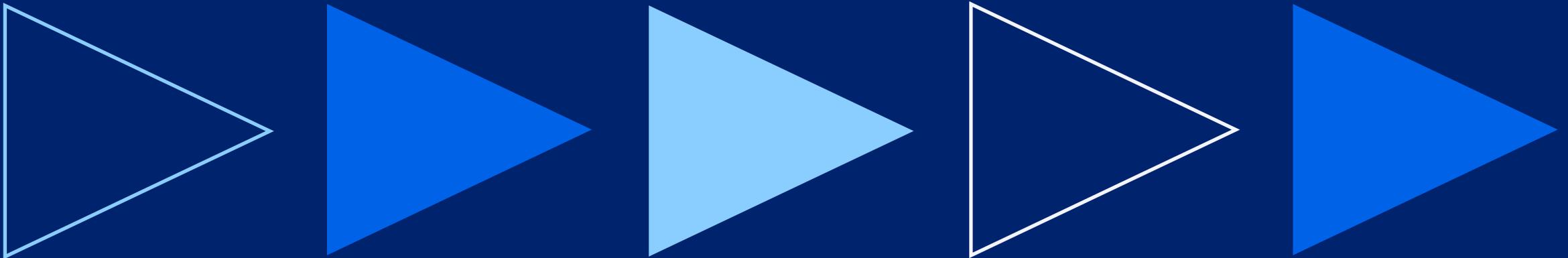


Opioid Settlement Funds in MA

Claire Hoffman, MPH



Background

- Commonwealth and its municipalities will receive over \$900 million in Opioid Settlement Funds
- Funding will be distributed annually for a specified number of years per each settlement agreement
- Imperative to fund public health approaches to the opioid crisis



New Opioid Settlement Funding Available

- Pharmacies
 - CVS
 - Walgreens
 - Walmart
- Manufacturers
 - Teva
 - Allergan

*Municipalities must sign and return the Participation Forms no later than **Tuesday, April 18, 2023.***



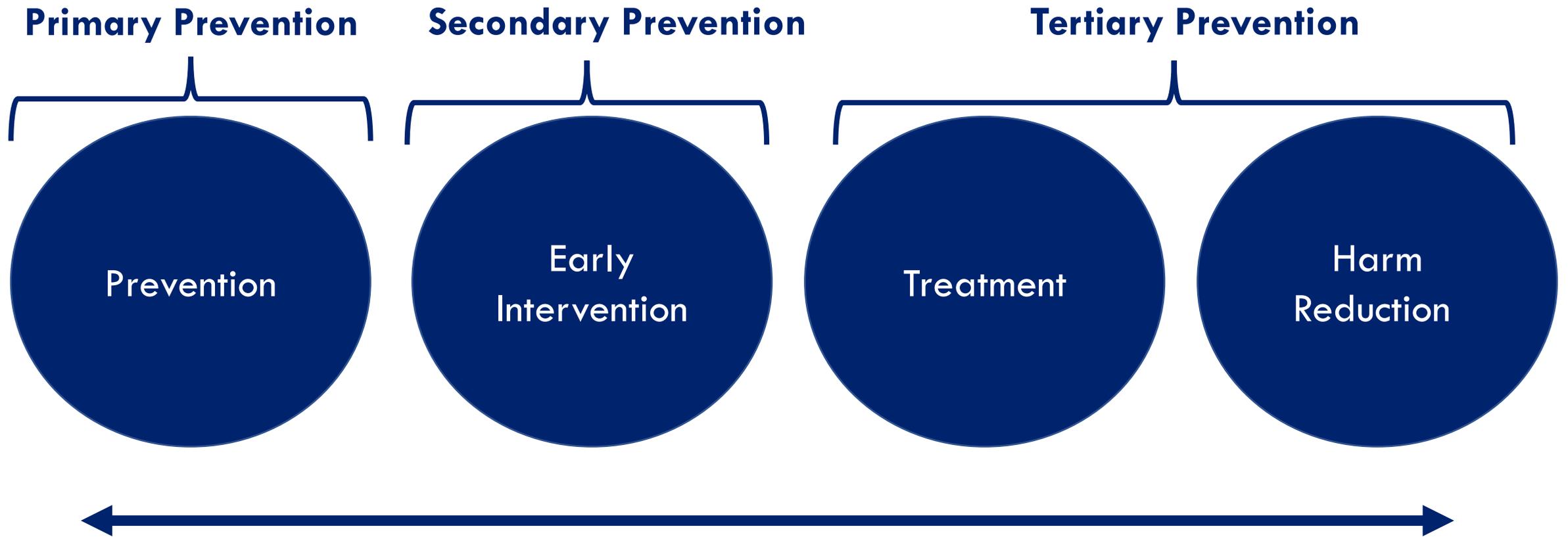
How are abatement funds MA receives under statewide opioid settlements distributed?

- 60% of the abatement funds will be allocated to the state's Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund
- 40% will be allocated to cities and towns to expend on approved abatement strategies

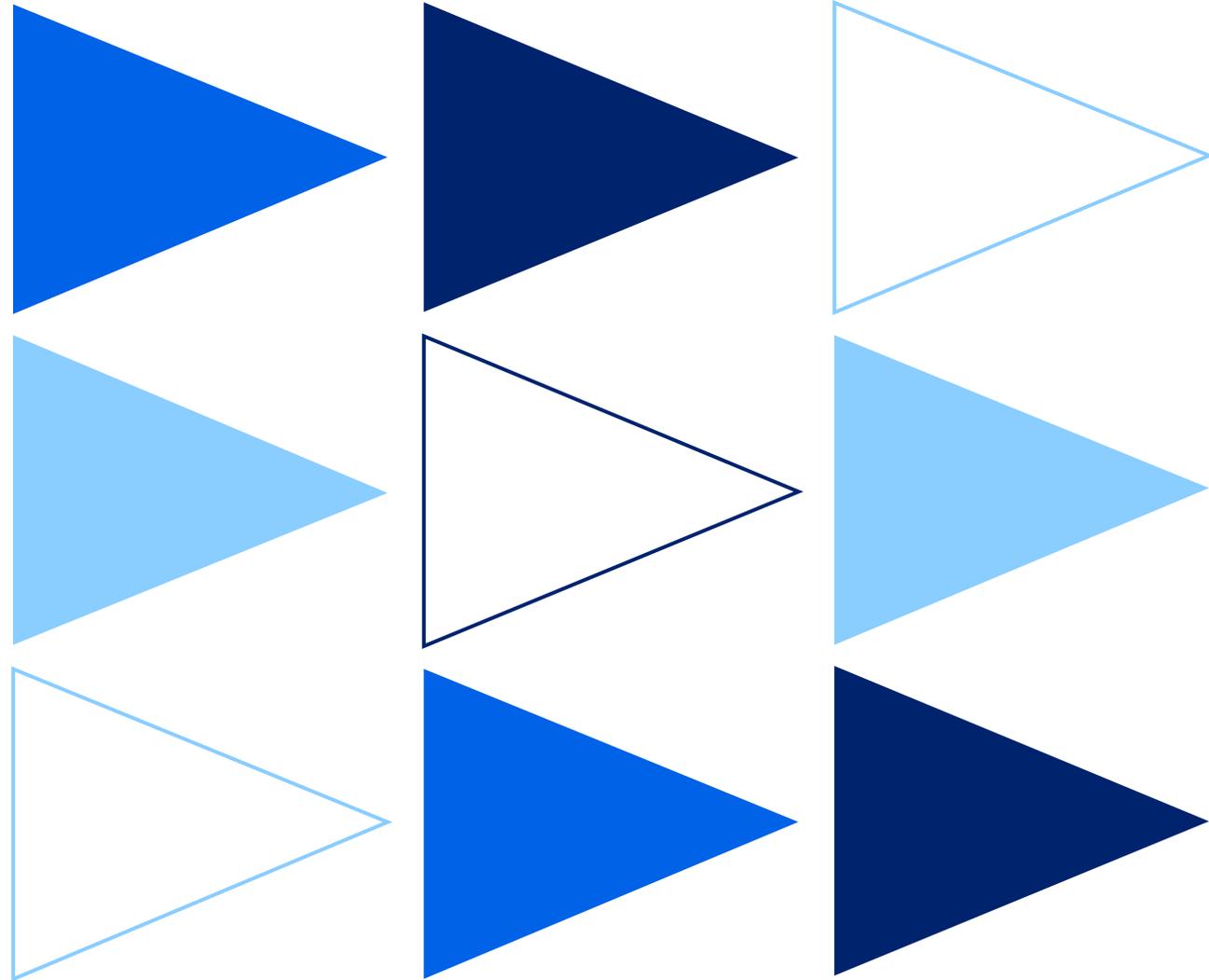
Municipalities may pool resources to advance regional collaboration



Continuum of Interventions



Principles for Use of Funds



Overview of Principles for Use of Funds

1. Spend the Money to Save Lives
2. Use Evidence to Guide Spending
3. Invest in Youth Prevention
4. Focus on Racial Equity
5. Involve People with Lived Experience in Decision-Making Processes



1. Spend the Money to Save Lives

Municipalities may be tempted to use opioid settlement dollars to fill holes in their budgets rather than expand needed substance use and mental health programs.

They should use the funds to supplement rather than supplant existing spending.



2. Use Evidence to Guide Spending

Large body of evidence describing what works and what doesn't

Spend funds on evidence-based and evidence-informed interventions:

- [SAMHSA Evidence-Based Practices Resource Center](#)
- [Brandeis Opioid Resource Connect Program Models](#)
- [Curated Library about Opioid Use for Decision-Makers](#)



3. Invest in Youth Prevention

- Substance use in childhood often persists into adulthood
- Primary prevention can interrupt pathways to addiction and overdose, while preventing other negative health outcomes

- Youth Resources:

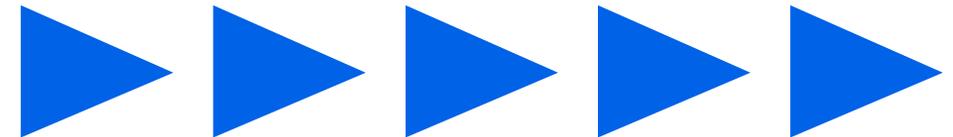
[Blueprints Program](#)

[National Institute of Drug Abuse, Principles of Substance Abuse Prevention for Early Childhood: A Research-Based Guide](#)

[Facing Addiction in America, the Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health, 2016](#)

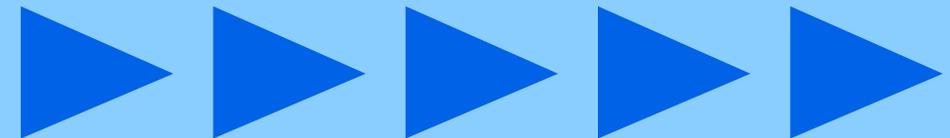
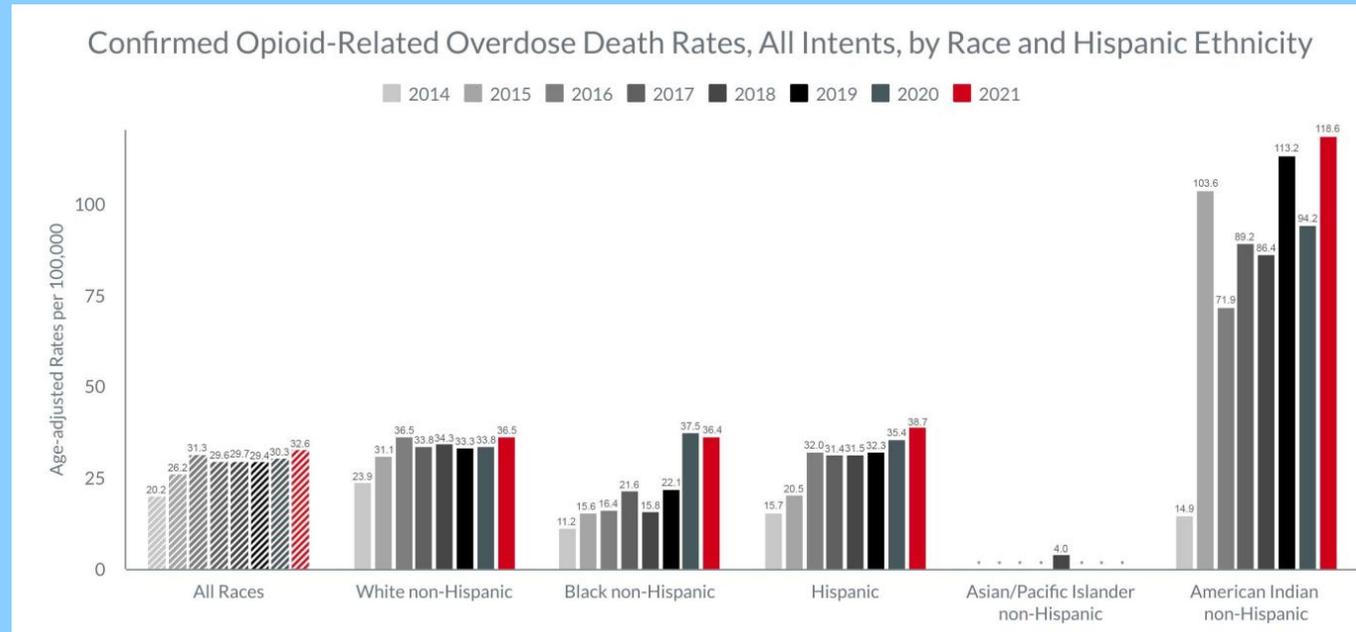
Contact: Andy Robinson, BSAS Prevention Unit, andrew.robinson@state.ma.us

Source: <https://opioidprinciples.jhsph.edu/the-principles/>



4. Focus on Racial Equity

- Invest in communities affected by discriminatory policies
- Review state and local data about racial disparities in fatal and non-fatal ODs
- Support diversion from arrests and incarceration
- Increase equitable access to treatments for opioid use disorder, including medications for opioid use disorder

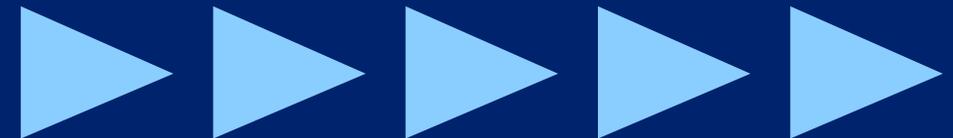


5. Involve People with Lived Experience in Decision-Making Processes

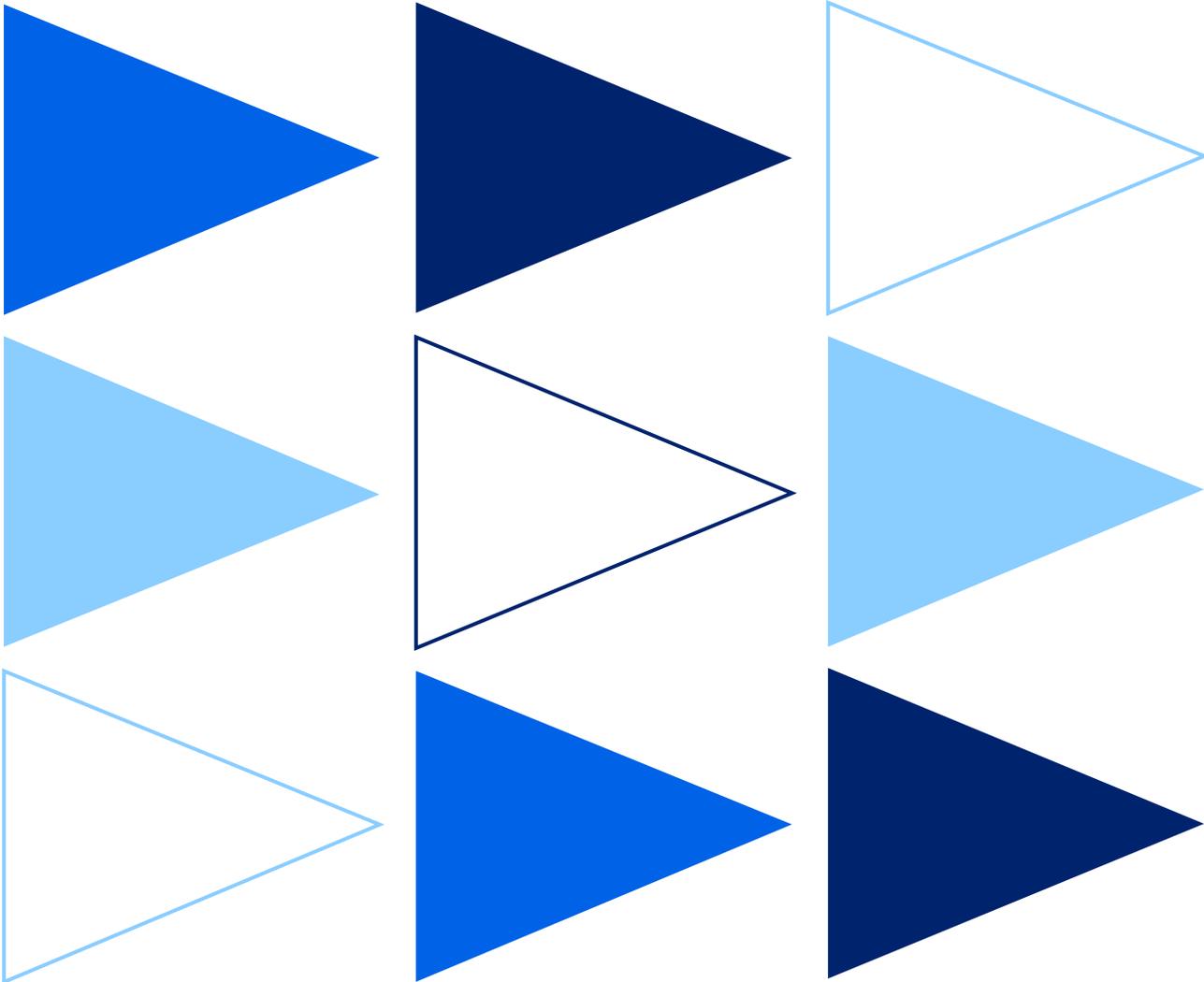
Determine areas of need by asking about experiences and looking at existing data together

- What groups are not being reached by current interventions?
- Are there certain geographic areas would benefit from specific programs such as housing assistance or syringe services program?
- On the spectrum from prevention to harm reduction, what services are missing in our municipality or region?

Include people with lived experience, their families, and youth who are representative of the affected communities



Innovative Uses for Opioid Settlement Funds



State-Approved Strategies for Municipal Use of Funds

1. Opioid Use Disorder Treatment
2. Support People in Treatment and Recovery
3. Connections to Care
4. Harm Reduction
5. Address the Needs of Criminal Justice-Involved Persons
6. Support Pregnant Or Parenting People And Their Families, Including Babies With Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
7. Prevent Misuse Of Opioids And Implement Prevention Education



1. Opioid Use Disorder Treatment

Includes medication, behavioral health interventions, and recovery services

Meet those in recovery where they are

- Employ peer recovery coaches – such as Malden
- Support mobile intervention services

Support physical infrastructure of recovery services

- Provide capital expenditures to rehabilitate and expand facilities that offer treatment for OUD



2. Support People in Treatment and Recovery

Includes wrap-around, housing, transportation, employment, and community services

Assist with **housing and employment** stability

- Rental and utility assistance programs
- Fund job training, job placement, and childcare programs
- Rehabilitate properties appropriate for low-threshold and recovery housing

Support ongoing recovery and use of available services

- Provide transportation to treatment or recovery services
- Create or expand peer recovery centers



3. Connections to Care

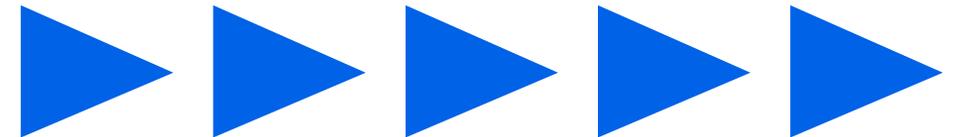
Includes early intervention and connections to care for individuals at risk of or who have developed SUD

Youth Mental Health First Aid training

- Teaches participants ways to help someone who may be experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis

Safe Stations

- Individuals can go to fire station, speak with the trained staff on duty, and immediately get connected to treatment and recovery support and services
- Fall River currently operates Safe Station



4. Harm Reduction

Includes efforts to prevent opioid-related death and illnesses

- Approve and fund syringe service programs
- Mobile units that provide harm reduction and other primary care services
- Harm reduction vending machines
- NaloxBoxes
 - Cambridge provides these in public buildings
- Street outreach teams
- Post-overdose support teams



5. Address The Needs Of Criminal Justice-Involved Persons

Includes diversion programs, providing services during incarceration, and supports upon reentry

Alternative responder models to address SUD-related 911 calls

- Boston Emergency Services Team (BEST) in Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Revere, Somerville and Winthrop

Provide case management post-incarceration to connect individuals to treatment, housing, and medical needs.



6. Support Pregnant Or Parenting People And Their Families, Including Babies With Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

Includes services for pregnant people, childcare, and family supports

First Steps Together:

- Home visiting program that was created to support parents in recovery. Each family is connected with a Family Recovery Support Specialist, who is a parent in recovery themselves
- Only one First Steps Together program currently in Greater Boston



Join a community of people parenting in recovery!

Pregnancy and parenting young children can be a hopeful and exciting time. It can also be stressful and overwhelming, especially while working on your recovery.

FIRST Steps Together offers...

- Support for your recovery and parenting journeys from someone in recovery who has been there and understands
- A space to connect with other parents in recovery
- Help with your other services and providers
- Connections to resources and agencies to help with housing, benefits, childcare, and other needs
- Groups, care coordination, and the option of working with a mental health counselor
- Flexible services at home, in the community and/or online



7. Prevent Misuse Of Opioids And Implement Prevention Education

Includes youth prevention, anti-stigma campaigns, coalition-building, and community services

Substance use and mental health curriculum in schools for students of all ages

- LifeSkills Training

Family Skills Training interventions

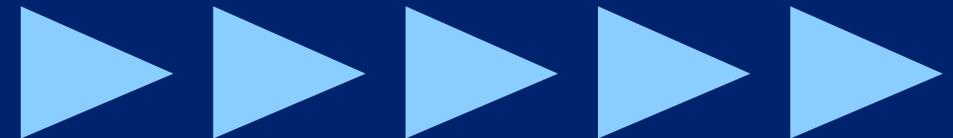
Support community coalitions in strategic planning for substance use prevention

Provide school-based and community mental health supports, such as School-Based Health Centers



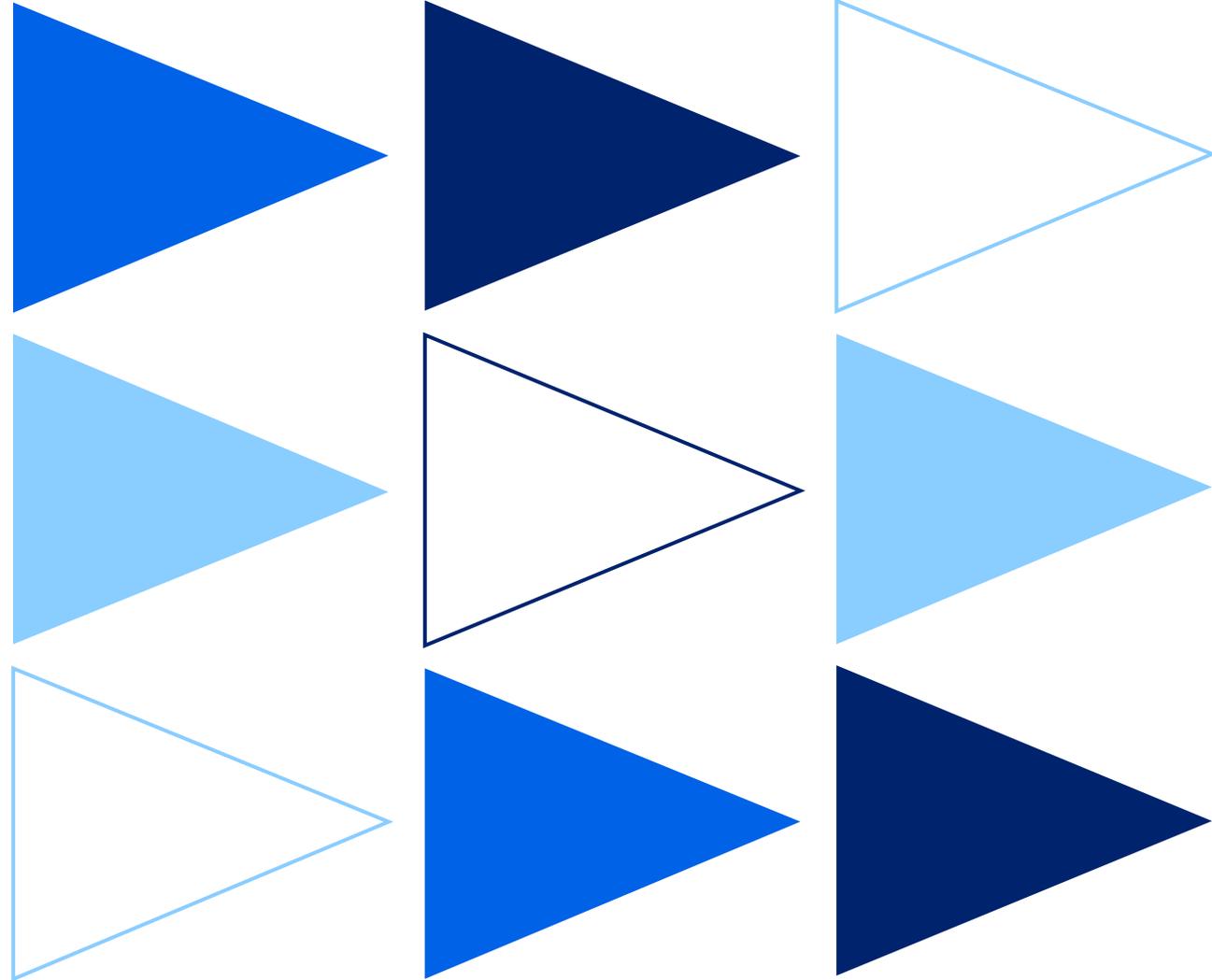
Key Takeaways

- These are only a select number of interventions available
- Engage in strategic planning *before* deploying the funds
 - Strategy (what you can/will do); Tactic (how you can/will implement strategy)
 - Consider regional approaches, particularly if receiving smaller funding amounts
 - Worth funding a mixture of existing & new programs
- Center the voices of people with lived experience in planning & implementation
- Ensure that the selected interventions advance racial equity



Questions?

choffman@mapc.org



Resources

- Municipal Abatement Payments: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/municipal-abatement-payments>
- FAQs about AG's Statewide Opioid Settlement: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/frequently-asked-questions-about-the-ag-s-statewide-opioid-settlements>
- Massachusetts Abatement Terms & Strategies: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-abatement-terms/download>
- MAHB Templates to Appropriate Funds & Create Stabilization Fund: <https://mahb.org/appropriation-of-opioid-settlement-funds/>
- Legal Action Center, Evidence Based Strategies for Abatement of Harms from the Opioid Epidemic: <https://www.lac.org/resource/evidence-based-strategies-for-abatement-of-harms-from-the-o>

