



**Testimony to the Michigan House Appropriations HHS Subcommittee on Opioid Settlement Funds  
October 25, 2023**

The MI Care Council is an independent voice for providers of person-centered care and social support in Michigan. The Council's membership includes healthcare and social support service providers who collaborate to promote state and local policies that support a system of high-quality, high value, integrated person-centered services.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts on the opioid settlement funds before the Michigan House Appropriations HHS Subcommittee.

We encourage the legislature to adopt the recommendations outlined in the Opioid Advisory Commissions Report and provide direction to the state and local governments on how to spend the settlement funds. We also encourage the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), the Attorney General, and the local governments responsible for distributing the funds to consult with the Providers in the community on how the money could be spent to maximize its impact. This includes creating a transparent system, and the people distributing the funds are accountable for ensuring they are being used for their intended purposes, specifically around prevention, treatment, recovery support, and harm reduction programs.

Leaving the decision to individual counties and local governments dilutes the impact these settlement funds could make in creating system-wide change to an epidemic, and providers should be included in how to use best the funding the state receives.

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