May 20, 2025

RE: House Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services hearing on Opioid Settlements

Rep. Greg VanWoerkom
Chair House Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
Room 326, House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Chair VanWoerkom and Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services:

The Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) understands that the Subcommittee on Health and Human Services will hear presentations on opioid settlements. MAC has worked diligently providing individualized technical assistance and support to counties as they plan for, and spend, their opioid settlement funds. MAC has created a toolkit for local spending, resource center, resource library, local government learning community, and numerous other resources for use by local governments. MAC continues to earn national recognition for its leadership in helping county governments effectively utilize opioid settlement funds.

Since 2023, MAC has issued an annual voluntary survey to better understand where settlement funds are being utilized. This data has been utilized to update the MAC Opioid Settlement Dashboard and release a regular report. The 2024 report can be viewed here. The data and report from the 2025 survey will be available this summer.

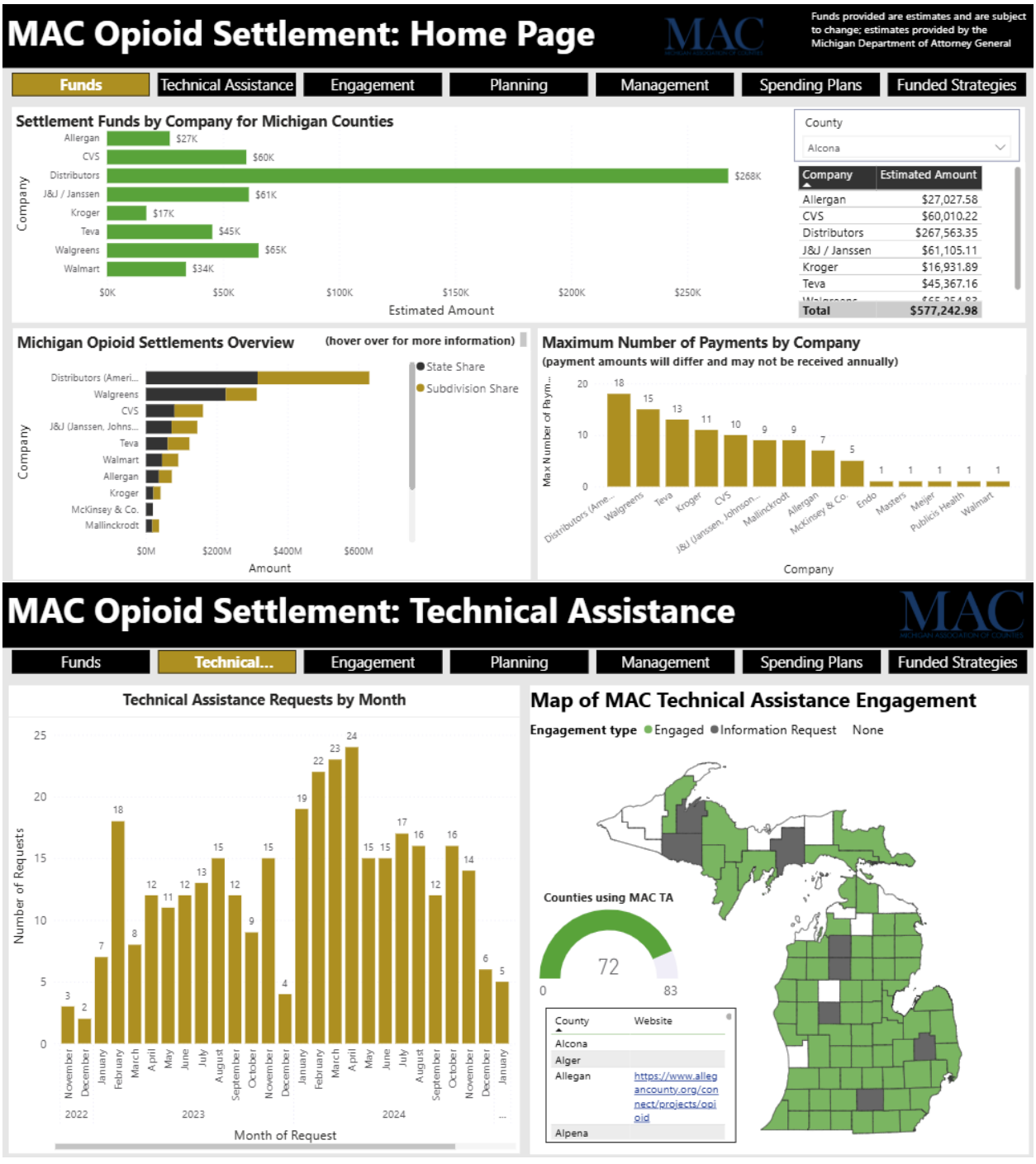
The majority of counties have followed MAC's guidance on planning for spending found in the Michigan Opioid Settlement Funds Toolkit: A Guide for Local Spending. The toolkit provides direction on process and linkage to existing resources provided by local and national entities and to assist with creation of targeted efforts. The document outlines a process of stakeholder engagement, data gathering, determination of a process moving forward, and monitoring and accountability. With this guidance, along with supplemental guidance and tools from MAC, most counties have created opioid settlement steering committees and have utilized, or are engaged in, a competitive request for proposal process to ensure access to funds. Counties are committed to funding solutions that meet local needs and transparent processes.

For calendar year 2023, approximately half of counties were still in planning phases and had not yet spent funds. For counties who responded to the survey question on where funds had been spent (55 counties), 29% spent on treatment and support for individuals engaged in the criminal-legal system, 22% on prevention programming, and 22% on expanding access to naloxone. Funding recovery support services and access to medication to treat opioid use disorder (MOUD) were the next highest funded with 15% of counties supporting these efforts.

For calendar year 2024, around 60% of counties had funded initiatives. Responding counties (36 counties) funded the strategies of expanding warm hand-off programs and recovery support services (34%) , expanding access to naloxone or other FDA-approved drugs to review opioid overdoses

(29%), expanding prevention programs (29%), and providing treatment and support for individuals engaged with the criminal-legal system (29%).

MAC Opioid Settlement Dashboard:

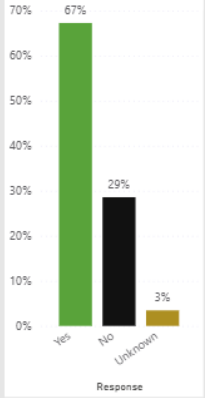


MAC Opioid Settlement: Stakeholder Engagement

Data captured from Opioid Settlement County Reporting Survey April/May 2024
77% (64/83) of counties responded

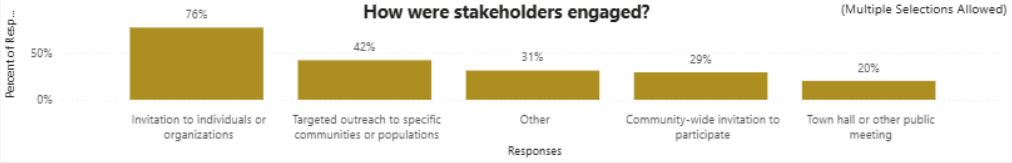
Funds | Technical Assistance | **Engagement** | Planning | Management | Spending Plans | Funded Strategies

Did your county involve the community in a process to identify strengths, barriers and priorities?



How were stakeholders engaged?

(Multiple Selections Allowed)



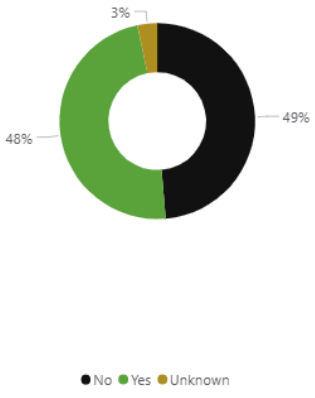
Stakeholder Type (Multiple Selections Allowed)	Understanding of Local Data and Needs (#)	Development of County-Level Strategic or Action Plan (#)	Development of Spending Plan (#)	Development of Public-Facing Reporting and Transparency Tools (#)	Determination of Recommendations or Areas for Spending (#)
Behavioral health providers	39	24	20	8	30
City government	13	7	4	2	5
Faith-based communities	18	11	7	4	10
Harm reduction providers	29	16	14	5	18
Healthcare providers	35	20	16	6	20
Local business	9	6	5	4	6
Local public health	40	28	24	12	31
Medical examiner/Coroner	23	13	8	4	10
N/A, no community-inclusive process	3	3	4	4	4
Prevention coalition or specialists	34	22	14	8	21
Public safety and criminal-legal system	40	27	24	8	30
Recovery support providers	38	25	20	6	28
Schools and universities	20	12	8	5	10
Those with lived experience	35	19	14	6	18
Township government	11	4	3	3	2
Tribal government	5	3	4	1	3
Total	**392**	**240**	**189**	**86**	**246**

MAC Opioid Settlement: Planning

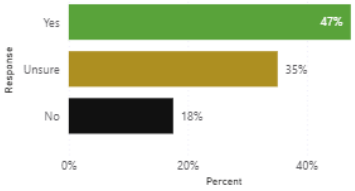
Data captured from Opioid Settlement County Reporting Survey April/May 2024
77% (64/83) of counties responded

Funds | Technical Assistance | Engagement | **Planning** | Management | Spending Plans | Funded Strategies

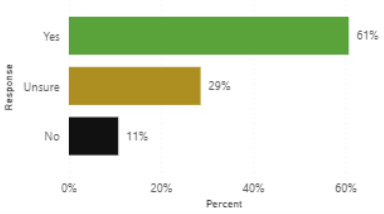
Does your county have publicly accessible information around opioid settlement funds?



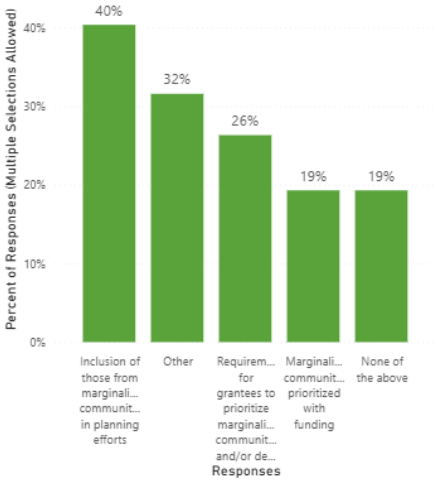
Plan for identifying overall impact outcome of funds



Plan to require grantees to report on activities and outcomes



How was consideration given to ensure funds reached those most profoundly impacted by the overdose crisis?



MAC Opioid Settlement: Management of Funds

Data captured from Opioid Settlement County Reporting Survey April/May 2024
77% (64/83) of counties responded

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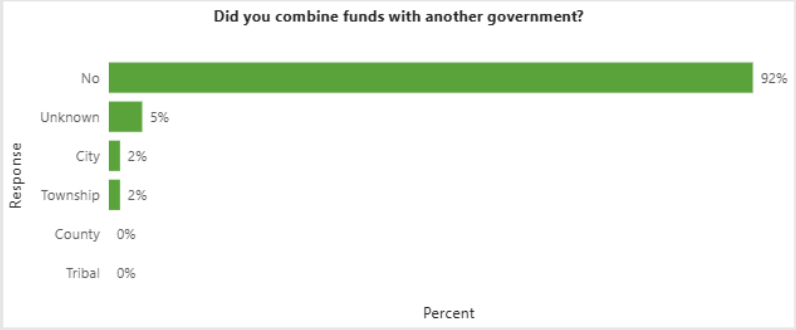

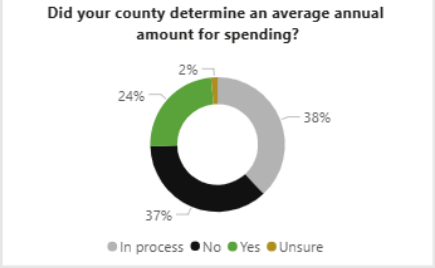

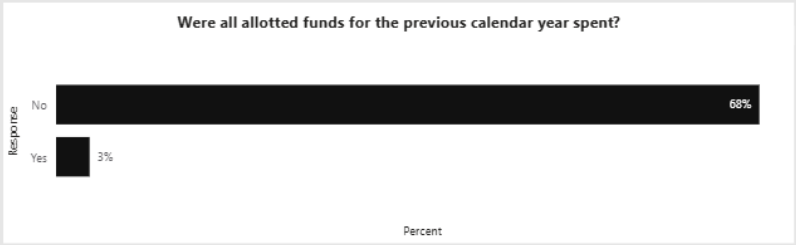

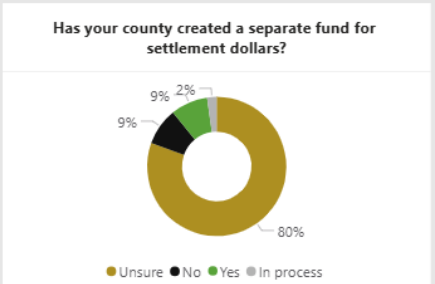

MAC Opioid Settlement: Monitoring Investments

Data captured from Opioid Settlement County Reporting Survey April/May 2024
77% (64/83) of counties responded

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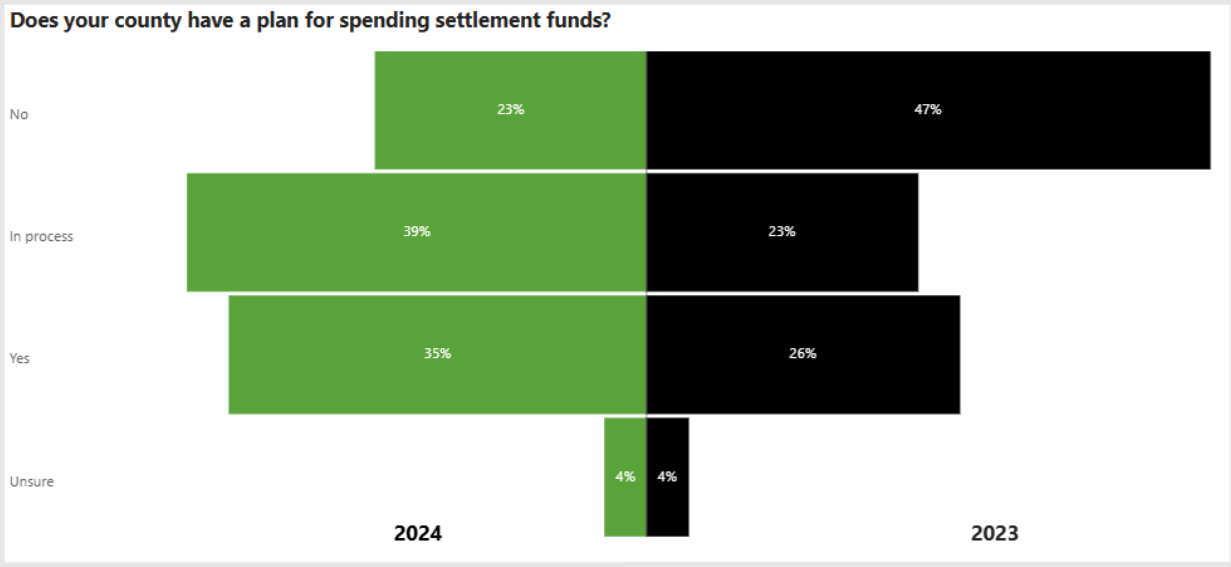
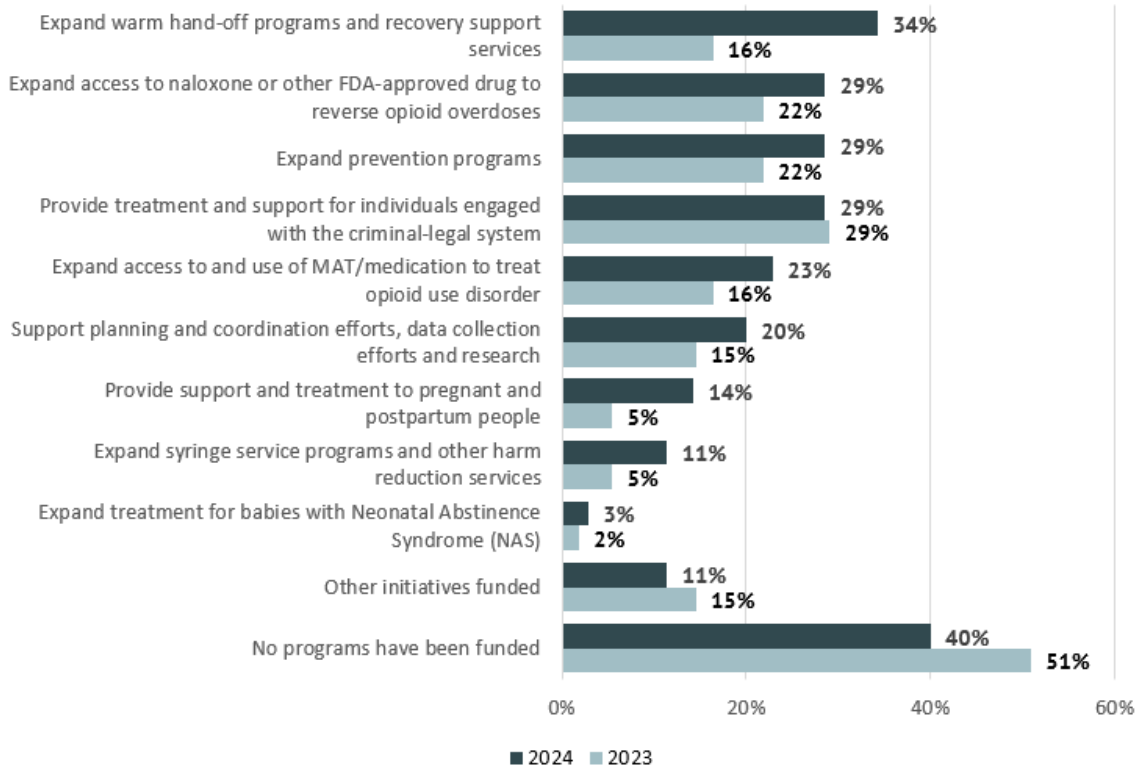


EXHIBIT 14. Percentage Funding Strategies



N = 35 (2024); N = 55 (2023)
Note: Percentages do not total 100 because more than one response could be selected.