

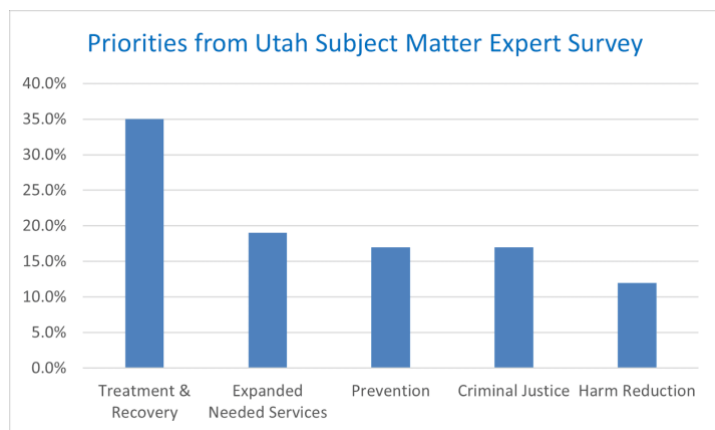
## Utah Opioid Task Force Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (OSAC) Executive Summary

This report provides Utah policymakers and stakeholders with guidance on how to leverage opioid settlement funds. Goals are to maximize benefits to the community and alleviate some of the harms caused by opioids in Utah. The OSAC is composed of subject matter experts from a broad range of fields and has the singular task of providing guidance on utilizing settlement funds expected from various opioid litigations.

One American dies every five minutes of an overdose. There were over 108,000 overdose deaths in the U.S. in 2022, the most ever in a 12-month period. Utah has made progress in this realm going from 4<sup>th</sup> to 42<sup>nd</sup> in the nation for rate of overdose deaths, but there is still much work to be done.

### Immediate Strategic Priorities Recommended for Early Phase Settlement Fund Management:

- Establish CORE PRINCIPLES in legislation to provide a framework that ensures funds are spent in ways that save and improve lives.
- Determine the entity to oversee and manage funding, establish administrative cost limits.
- Establish an advisory group.
- Establish a structured process for allocation of funds based on the core principles.
- Establish parameters around project priorities and selection processes based on community assessments and resources.
- Establish reporting and outcome measurements required for transparency and compliance with settlements.



### Subject Matter Expert (SME) Recommended Strategies

Utah's subject matter experts prioritize using opioid settlement funds to expand treatment and recovery opportunities (emphasis in rural areas), followed by expanding needed services, prevention, criminal justice, and harm reduction. Evidence-based and data-driven strategies should be prioritized, and results and outcomes should be tracked and reported.

### Additional Key Considerations Identified by SME

- ◆ Comprehensive expansion of a more equitable workforce including professional development, compensation, and access throughout the state
- ◆ Those with lived experience, their families, and community members must be included in assessments and projects
- ◆ Prioritize housing, legal supports, education, and job training availability for those impacted by opioids
- ◆ Ensure naloxone access and overdose prevention for groups and areas that are high risk for overdose
- ◆ Recovery supports are vital and should be funded separately from treatment services
- ◆ Measuring and reporting results and outcomes should be a crucial piece of settlement spending planning

**Keep the Focus on the Intent of the Opioid Settlements:  
To Ameliorate the Harms of Opioids on our Communities**