



Local Opioid Settlement Funds Plan

Revised April 22, 2026

Fargo Cass Public Health's (FCPH) plan for local opioid settlement funds (OSF) received from the City of Fargo, the City of West Fargo, and Cass County government was drafted March 30, 2023. The plan proposed the funds be used for a community opioid response coalition, community naloxone distribution and training, and maintaining FCPH's syringe services program. New funding streams, budget cuts and loss of other grant funding necessitate revisions to the plan.

Since the plan's inception, FCPH has coordinated the Red River Recovery Initiative, a community opioid response coalition. Coordination activities include soliciting and maintaining membership from key community sectors, holding monthly coalition meetings, and utilizing the coalition to advise/plan opioid response activities. Beginning October 2024 through present, FCPH's state opioid response (SOR) grant from the ND Department of Health & Human Services Behavioral Health Division (HHS BHD) funds community coalitions. While this grant funding exists, FCPH will not use OSF to fund the community opioid response coalition.

Historically, FCPH purchased naloxone using SOR grant funds. Over time, SOR funding became insufficient to meet community demand for naloxone. Thus, FCPH proposed using OSF funds to purchase naloxone and support community distribution and training. This included the following activities:

- a. Provide naloxone to first responders including law enforcement agencies and fire departments.
- b. Leave naloxone behind at scenes of overdose emergency calls.
- c. Provide naloxone to individuals being released from treatment and incarceration.
- d. Provide naloxone to persons who use prescription and illicit opioids.
- e. Work with pharmacies to provide no-cost naloxone to patients who cannot afford it.
- f. Provide naloxone to organizations that serve high-risk individuals.
- g. Research the use of vending machines for low-barrier distribution of naloxone.

In October 2024, FCPH began receiving naloxone from HHS BHD at no cost, no longer necessitating the use of OSF to purchase it. Additionally, naloxone distribution and training are currently sufficiently supported by the SOR grant, so OSF funds are not needed for these activities.

FCPH continues to rely on OSF to support its syringe services program and harm reduction vending machine. No other funding streams currently exist to purchase safer use supplies and cover utility costs.

FCPH now uses OSF to support its withdrawal management unit (WMU), as one-time funding from HHS BHD ended in December 2025. The City of Fargo general fund covers most WMU costs, with OSF supporting a .25 full-time equivalent (FTE) for the WMU coordinator position, and one FTE team lead position.

Finally, FCPH will use OSF funds to support a full-time Licensed Addiction Counselor (LAC). This position will provide individual and group counseling, facilitate skills-based therapy, and deliver evidence-based programming within the WMU and other FCPH Harm Reduction Division programs. The LAC will also conduct assertive street outreach to engage individuals experiencing homelessness. Responsibilities include managing client cases through coordination of referrals and support services, developing and implementing individualized treatment plans, conducting substance use disorder assessments, and determining appropriate ASAM levels of care.

In summary, changes to the 2023 plan include OSF no longer supporting a community opioid response coalition, naloxone purchases, and naloxone distribution and training. These activities are supported through other funding sources. OSF currently support program utilities and safer use supplies for the syringe services program, 1.25 FTE for the WMU, and an LAC.