



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Foster County Public Health**

## **Opioid Response Background, Foster County Opioid Settlement Funds Plan & Future Strategies Proposal**

**Updated April 2026**

### **Background:**

Foster County Public Health (FCPH) has received state opioid response funding since 2019. These funds have been associated with North Dakota's State Opioid Response (SOR), administered by the North Dakota Department of Human Services, Behavioral Health Division (BHD), and funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Since 2019, opioid response efforts have included information dissemination to work towards reducing the stigma surrounding opioid (mis)use disorder (OUD), medications for opioid (mis)use disorder (MOUD), harm reduction strategies, and recovery services. A local medication-assisted treatment (MAT) clinic was established and continues to be a well utilized service in the county. Community education started initially and has continued in the areas of safe use of medication, medication take back efforts and locations, availability of naloxone, and general information about mental health, substance use disorder treatment, and recovery support services. Local partnerships with law enforcement agencies, healthcare providers, the local healthy community coalition, and other community organizations have been integral to the success of these opioid response efforts.

Current state SOR grant funding efforts for FCPH include these overall strategies of increasing access to naloxone, reducing harm related to opioids, increasing access to recovery support services, and preventing opioid (mis)use. Some of the specific activities within these strategies include providing naloxone education and distribution to community members and businesses, sharing comprehensive messaging (mainly through

newspaper and social media), promoting medication safety with Take Back events and locations, distributing medication disposal products, providing education on medication safety, overdose, stigma reduction, and increasing availability of peer support services locally.

### **Opioid Settlement Funds Plan:**

Foster County Public Health proposes Opioid Settlement Funds to enhance and augment current state SOR grant funding efforts in the following ways:

1.) Enhance/Establish Peer Support Services locally.

State SOR funding currently supports Goal 4: Increase access to recovery support services. In the event of a decrease or pause in state SOR funding, our priority with county opioid settlement funding would shift to this area as the top priority.

- a. Provide funding for launch of peer support specialist locally to sustain services for those with OUD, and any co-occurring substance (mis)use disorder (SUD) and/or mental health conditions.
- b. Bring together potential partners to develop a plan for implementation, including the local Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) clinic and/or other local providers.
- c. Develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with peer support specialist (PSS), which will include next steps, timelines, and responsible parties.
- d. Review local and state data, disseminate information to appropriate partners.
- e. Develop educational and promotional materials to disseminate.
- f. Regularly scheduled review with community partners.

2.) Youth Education Prevention Program research, development, and implementation.

State SOR grant funding currently supports Goal 3: Strategy 6 “Research EBP curriculum options for school-aged youth and present to school districts. Support EBP options and education as request by schools on an ongoing basis.” Once state SOR funds are exhausted, county opioid settlement funding will be utilized for further continuation efforts of youth education. Efforts that fall within this area may

include enhancement of current substance use prevention programs or implementation of additional evidence-based programs to include opioid and all substance use/misuse.

- 3.) Explore naloxone integration through additional avenues, such as local emergency services.

State SOR funding currently supports Goal 2: Reduce harm related to opioids and stimulants, includes an Opioid Overdose Prevention Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) program in our community. County opioid settlement funds would further engage local emergency services partners with potential naloxone distribution and integration in the following ways:

- a. Determine the need and/or interest of local emergency services partners in naloxone distribution and/or integration. Potential local emergency services partners may include:
  - i. Law enforcement
    1. Foster County Sheriff's Office
    2. Carrington City Police Department
  - ii. Fire Departments
    1. Carrington Fire Department
    2. Glenfield Fire Department
  - iii. EMS
    1. Carrington Ambulance
    2. McHenry Ambulance
    3. Bowdon Ambulance (in eastern Wells County but often utilizes local hospital emergency department)
    4. Woodworth Area Responders (in northern Stutsman County but often utilizes local hospital emergency department)
  - iv. Local hospital – CHI St. Alexius Health
- b. Establish memorandum of understanding(s) (MOUs) with interested local emergency services partners.

- c. Assist local emergency services partners in development of policies and procedures for obtaining naloxone, replacing expired/used naloxone, tracking form/documentation, and additional logistics.
- d. Offer and provide training to staff and volunteers on naloxone as needed.

Dependent on availability of additional funding in the future, FCPH will regularly review plans, data, and local partnerships and adjust allocation plans as needed. FCPH will continue to research and implement new and promising practices for harm reduction programming as funding allows.

Review of the county opioid settlement funding plan and annual report will align with state SOR fiscal year dates of October 2026, and dates of expected future state SOR funding including October 2027.