

A Community Plan for Opioid Settlement Fund Implementation

Background

The Town of Bourne is expected to receive an estimated **\$1.4+ million in settlement payments through 2038.¹**

The Town of Bourne engaged Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP) to conduct a needs assessment on substance and opioid use and to facilitate strategic planning to guide town leaders in making data-driven, community-informed decisions regarding the use of opioid settlement funds (OSF). Bourne's Comprehensive Plan is the culmination of those efforts and will serve as a roadmap for the town's implementation of OSF over the coming years.

Needs Assessment

AHP collected and analyzed quantitative and qualitative data to identify gaps, trends, and challenges related to substance and opioid use; uncover community strengths and opportunities; and highlight priorities and recommendations for OSF spending. Below is a representation of who participated in this process:



Key Priorities

AHP's analysis of the survey, interviews, and focus group data revealed insightful findings about participants' priorities for OSF spending:

1. Improve **transportation access** to mitigate barriers to engaging in behavioral health services.
2. Support individuals to identify and access SUD services through **resource navigation**.
3. Prevent & delay youth substance use through **evidence-based prevention education/programming**.
4. Address **stigma toward MOUD** in healthcare, treatment, and recovery settings, especially for older adults.
5. Reduce opioid-related harms through **increased access to harm reduction training and supplies** for both full- and part-time residents.

Selected Strategies

Bourne's Opioid Settlement Advisory Group (OSAG), with AHP's facilitation, used the results of the needs assessment to select the following strategies for implementation (no particular order):

- 1  Partner with a vendor to provide transportation to treatment, recovery and other opioid use disorder (OUD) supportive services.
- 2  Partner with a behavioral health care coordination service to provide residents with 24/7 help with finding and getting connected to substance use and mental health treatment.
- 3  Implement new substance use prevention curricula for BPS K-8 students.
- 4  Increase funding to the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) to implement Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) program for older adults.
- 5  Develop formal partnership with local syringe service program (SSP) to bring mobile harm reduction services to Bourne.

1. <https://www.mass.gov/lists/municipal-abatement-payments>

The Comprehensive Plan: A Roadmap to Success

Bourne's OSAG developed a vision and mission to guide the Town's approach to using OSF:

Vision | We envision a community free of substance misuse where treatment and harm reduction are readily available, and all residents can adopt safe and healthy choices to avoid the destruction that comes with substance misuse.

Mission | Bourne is committed to a data-informed and community-engaged approach to decision-making regarding the allocation of opioid settlement funds to ensure that resources are directed toward initiatives that reflect the community's identified needs and priorities, and that are aligned with the statewide commitment to opioid abatement.

