STATE OF MARYLAND
Local Abatement Plan

Per the State Subdivision Agreement, the Local Abatement Plan is required to be filled out by participating subdivisions at least every 5 years in order to receive Targeted Abatement Grant Funds. These funds account for 45% of the total funding received through Maryland's settlements, whereas local direct accounts for 25%. Qualifying charter counties (Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George) are not required to complete this, but are strongly encouraged to for public transparency purposes.

Jurisdiction/Subdivision Name:	Kent County, Maryland
Office Name:	County Commissioners of Kent County
Office Phone:	(410) 778-4600
General Office Email:	kentcounty@kentgov.org
Date of Submission (plans are valid for 5 years):	Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Plan Summary

The plan summary must provide a clear summary of the projects to be funded and the activities that will be conducted in service of the Local Abatement Plan. We will expand these cells for presentation purposes if needed, please fill out regardless if it all fits.

The Local Abatement Plan (LAP) for Kent County is predominately informed by Kent County's Opioid Response Plan, which was drafted by the Kent County Health Department with input of Kent's Local Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council (LDAAC), meetings of which also serve to host the local Overdose Prevention Team (OPT) (formerly known as the Opioid Intervention Team (OIT) prior to Executive Order 01.01.2023.21.) and input on which included representatives from the LDAAC as well as community representatives from harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services.

The Kent County Opioid Response Plan offers a vision, mission, and key priorities identified to combat substance misuse and its impact in Kent County. These priorities address the impact of the opioid epidemic in Kent County and illustrate concrete objectives and strategies that the County will pursue in addressing these priorities. These priorities, objectives, and strategies offer a localized response plan in line with the overarching pillars of the Maryland Office of Opioid Response as follows:
- Prevention: to interrupt pathways to substance use disorder with youth-focused prevention programming
- Harm Reduction: to improve the health and safety of those using drugs by empowering them with the tools and knowledge to stay safe and to offer support to engage in services
- Treatment: to expand equitable access to evidence-based treatment to all those in need
- Recovery: to build community capacity and infrastructure to support individuals' ability to lead a healthy drug-free life
- Public Safety: to decrease criminal involvement for those with substance use disorder through improved access to services.

The vision and mission of Kent's Opioid Response Plan are as follows:

- Vision: A healthy, safe and drug-free Kent County
- Mission: To assist individuals and families affected by substance abuse, to achieve a better quality of life through prevention, intervention, and comprehensive treatment. Our primary value is to preserve the dignity and well-being of every individual and family through the promotion, restoration, and maintenance of a healthy productive life.

The Kent County Health Department reviewed the Opioid Response Plan together with the LDAAC/OPT members to identify each participating agency's contributions to the plan, confirm priorities, and identify the strategies in support. These were discussed over the course of several LDAAC/OPT meetings beginning in the Spring of 2024, with opportunity for public input and discussion as well, and resulted in an updated plan approved in October 2024 that inventoried community work related to opiates prevention and abatement. The resulting summary-level priorities and strategies below were adopted:

Priorities and Strategies:
(1) Prevention of new cases of opioid and other substance use among adults and youth
a. Reduce supply of illicit opioids
b. Increase patient, family, public knowledge of opioid risks
c. Increase youth knowledge of risks
(2) Build local capacity to identify and link patients to appropriate levels of care
a. Reduce stigma and improve public knowledge on support services available
b. Identify and connect individuals to treatment and recovery services
(3) Improve access to treatment and recovery support services known to improve outcomes and reduce opioid overdose deaths
a. Expand access to opioid addiction treatment and recovery within the community
b. Facilitate and expediate entry to care via the Emergency Department as an entry point
c. Forensic treatment, care coordination, and peer services
d. Increase availability of overdose prevention via Narcan distribution, training, and education

Examples of programs, services, and initiatives identified that fall under these priorities include but are not limited to:
- Medication drop-off programs and sites to remove drug supplies at risk of abuse
- Prevention messaging efforts toward community- and faith-based organizations via media campaigns to include social media, print news, and internet sources
- Provision of evidence-based interventions within the public school system and media campaigns targeting middle and high school students to step underage substance use
- Provision of community outreach sessions designed to reduce stigma within the community and develop, distribute, and display educational information
- Expanding access to crisis stabilization beds, walk-in treatment access, and crisis response services (including peer crisis response services)
- Expanding access to outpatient substance use treatment services, including medication assisted treatment (MAT) availability
- Facilitating hospital-to-treatment pathways to substance use treatment services
- Expanding substance use treatment and care coordination and/or peer supports for justice-involved populations
- Distribution of Naloxone and training and education on use

The Opioid Restitution Funds will be used to advance the priorities and initiatives listed above, all of which

are directly aligned with Section 7-331 of the Maryland State Finance and Procurement Article and such allowable uses of the ORF settlement funds.

Goals and Performance Measures

Please fill the chart out below. We encourage multiple measures for each project, please feel free to add rows as needed. This format is very similar to the annual report, just without numerical targets. We encourage you to develop those targets proactively as you will have to report on them, but given this template is for 5 years we are not asking for it here.

References:

Exhibit E

OSPRI indicators

Project Title	**Select the relevant Exhibit E Heading from the Drop-down list provided, either Schedule A Core Strategies, or Schedule B Approved Uses**	**Specific activity under Exhibit E Heading**	**Goal-** what is the overall goal of this program?	**Process measure-** measures specific aspects of program activities or steps in processes that lead to an outcome. Consider, "What are we doing and how well are we doing it?". Often are count actions or verify a step has occurred.	**Output Measure -** demonstrates the immediate results of program delivery such as the amount of services delivered, the reach of services, or how much was accomplished. They answer the questions, "What did we deliver?" or "How many people did we reach?". Often are numbers of services, materials or participants reached.	**KPI** - Quantitative measures of specific results that address impact or changes achieved by the project. These commonly relate to quality, health outcomes, changes in behavior. Should be tied to your goal. Think of questions like "What difference did we make?" or "Are we achieving our goals?". Recommend using OSPRI if a Schedule A core strategy. **1 per project required.**	**Data source** - where will you collect the data to track your KPI?
EXAMPLE: Naloxone access training for the community	SchA._A_NALOXONE_OR_OTHER_FDA_APPROVED_DRUG_TO_REVERSE_OPIOID_OVERDOSES	1 Expand training for first responders, schools, community support groups and families	Increase the ability of community members to intervene in an opioid overdose emergency	Number of naloxone training events held	Number of community members trained in naloxone Number of naloxone doses dispensed	Number and percentage of attendees who self report confidence in ability to intervene in overdose situation	Post training survey
Community Grantmaking Process (see below for more details)							

Spend Plan

Detailed explanation of planned expense. Please provide an estimated % of funds (or dollar amount if you wish) allocated each project, if salaries are included please indicate FTEs per position.

The Commissioners of Kent County approved a Resolution on July 8, 2025, to establish a community grantmaking process to distribute funds from the Kent County Opioid Settlement Fund (including TAG and Direct Local Allocations) in line with priorities identified within the Kent Opioid Response Plan and within allowable fund uses under Section 7-331 of the Maryland State Finance and Procurement Article.

For any funding distributed from the Kent County Opioid Settlement Fund (including TAG and Direct Local Allocations), Kent County will also develop individualized performance indicators related to the specific projects funded to measure impact in the community that would not have otherwise been achieved without the ORF distributions. These will be determined as part of sub-granting award process, and are anticipated to include but not necessarily be limited to:

a. Information Campaigns:
- Number of public awareness events/activities completed
- Number of individuals exposed to messaging

b. Education and/or Training Events:
- Number of education/training events and/or activities conducted
- Number of individuals who received education/training
- Number of prevention supplies (e.g., Naloxone) distributed into the community

c. Referral to Treatment or Recovery Services
- Number of individuals referred to treatment/recovery services
- Number of individuals admitted to treatment/recovery services

d. Peer Recovery Activities
- Number of individuals engaged by peer recovery services
- Number of individuals referred to treatment by peer recovery services

e. Treatment Activities
- Number of individuals receiving treatment

Per the 2022 State-Subdivision Agreement (as modified in 2023), each subdivision receiving settlement funding is required to establish a Local Abatement Fund for deposit of settlement funds, including Direct Payments received and Targeted Abatement Grants. To facilitate monitoring of settlement contributions and direction of payments in support of the Local Abatement Plan, the County Commissioners of Kent County adopted Resolution 2025-09 on July 8th, 2025, to establish an Opioid Restitution Special Revenue Fund. The purpose of this Special Revenue Fund is to preserve and protect the Settlement Funds received by the County and to assist the County in using and directing distribution of such funds to support programs that prevent and treat opioid addiction in Kent County. The Resolution also authorizes creation of a public application process to inform recommendations for use of Settlement Funds, with distribution of funds subject to the approval of applications by the County Commissioners.

Under Resolution 2025-09, the County Commissioners of Kent County vested the County Administrator with the authority, aided by various work groups as needed, to establish a grant making process for distribution of such funds. Implementation of this administrative process will include creation of a system to regularly collect applications for awarding of ORF funds on a periodic basis. Recommendations for community grant-funding will be made to the County Commissioners for final approval, informed by community needs and expertise of work group members, and in collaboration with other local entities and partners, as appropriate. Resolution 2025-09 likewise authorized development of post-award review and monitoring processes to ensure that any disbursement from the Opioid Restitution Targeted Abatement Grant Funds will align with the legislative provisions reflected in Section 7-331 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

All funding determinations made by the County Commissioners will be guided by the priority areas, strategies, and objectives described in Kent County's Opioid Response Plan. The Opioid Response Plan was informed by community feedback and active engagement in the planning process from a diverse group of stakeholders, and this model will continue with the Targeted Abatement Funds. The community grant application process and its alignment with Kent County's Opioid Response Plan will be coordinated with the LDAAC/OPT to ensure community feedback and stakeholder engagement continue through the five-year Local Abatement Plan approval period.

Initial needs for the immediate near-term spend of Targeted Abatement Funds are anticipated to include, but not limited to, distribution and education on Naloxone within the community, support use of peer recovery specialists in engaging individuals into treatment, enhancing recovery supports available within the community for those experiencing and/or recovering from substance use disorder, and continuing ongoing primary prevention efforts focused on the youth of Kent County. Future spend of Targeted Abatement Funds may also include support of state-mandated opioid treatment and mitigation efforts, such as the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program in the Kent County Detention Center. As mentioned, recommendations on usage of Targeted Abatement Funds will be shared with the County Commissioners for their approval annually following the community grant application processes to ensure that uses evolve and adapt to emerging opioid treatment, education, and prevention needs within the community, but all efforts will be aligned with the mandated legislative provisions and requirements of ORF usage under Maryland state regulations and the terms of the settlement agreement.

By signing below, you agree to spend the opioid settlement funds received through the Targeted Abatement Fund in accordance with the plan established above and the allowable uses under State Finance and Procurement Article 7331 and Exhibit E of the national settlements

Additionally, your signature below certifies that your county/municipality has established a Local Abatement Fund, as required by the State Subdivision Agreement, and that all opioid settlement funds will be held in this fund.

VII. AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL SIGNATURE:	
Date:	7/22/2025
Printed Name:	Ronald H. Fithian
Title:	President, Kent County Commissioners