

# OPIOID RECOVERY & REMEDIATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

STRATEGIC PLAN



AT-A-GLANCE





**SPRING 2025** 

## **NEW JERSEY**

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### **AT-A-GLANCE**

The New Jersey Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan) is designed to guide the New Jersey Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council's (Advisory Council) funding recommendations over a five-year period (2025 through 2030). It focuses on the priorities that emerged from the Advisory Council's review and interpretation of the 2024 Needs Assessment findings. While many important needs emerged, this Strategic Plan focuses on strategies that Advisory Council members collectively agreed upon. It reflects careful consideration and deliberation among Advisory Council members, with a commitment to centering the lived and living experiences of individuals and families affected by substance use disorder in New Jersey.

This *Strategic Plan* is a dynamic, living document. It requires regular review of its progress and alignment with the latest evidence, public input, available resources, and context to maintain its effectiveness and responsiveness to New Jersey and the communities affected by substance use disorder.

#### VISION

Individuals and communities will view substance use disorder as a health condition, and those impacted by it will have equitable access to treatment and long-term support services that meet their basic needs, reduce harm, and foster recovery and wellbeing, ultimately **reducing drug-related fatalities.** 

#### **MISSION**

The Advisory Council will provide data-driven and equity-focused recommendations for the allocation and distribution of opioid settlement funds in New Jersey. The Advisory Council will engage in the following ongoing activities to accomplish this mission.



#### TRANSPARENCY

The Advisory Council will use a systematic process to recommend how to allocate funds.



#### **FEEDBACK**

The Advisory Council will routinely gather, review, make public, and strongly consider input from relevant stakeholder groups with a focus on including individuals and families with lived and living experience.



#### DATA TRACKING & EVALUATION

The Advisory Council will continuously monitor historical, county-level, and statewide data to identify shifts in trends over time and track the impact of funded initiatives.



#### REFINEMENT

The Advisory Council will review and adjust the Strategic Plan in accordance with changes to available funding streams, drug supply, populations disproportionately affected, and available evidence.



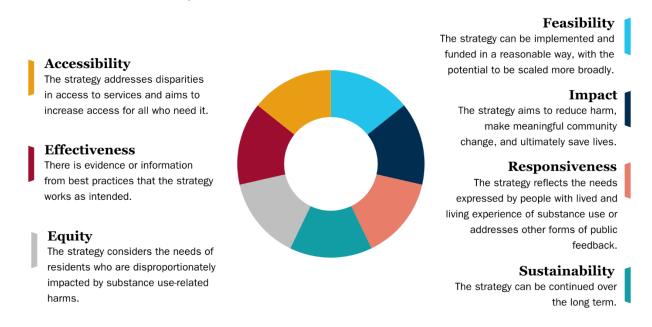
#### COMMUNICATION

The Advisory Council will routinely share information about its activities and funding opportunities with public stakeholders via their established networks and listservs.

#### Guiding Principles for Funding Recommendations

The Advisory Council will rely on several criteria when reviewing proposals to make funding recommendations (Figure 1). All guidelines should be considered, but not all must be satisfied for the recommendation to be prioritized. To further aid in the prioritization of funding activities, the Advisory Council will look to the *Statement on Funding Recommendations* which outlines the values of the Advisory Council and articulates three types of activities that it will not recommend for funding.

Figure 1. The Advisory Council uses seven guiding principles to inform their recommendations for using opioid settlement funds in New Jersey



#### Goals, Strategic Objectives, Strategies, and Progress Measures

The goals, strategic objectives, and strategies of the *Strategic Plan* are outlined below, providing a broad roadmap to guide the development of specific funding recommendations and future investments (Figure 2). Investing in activities across all strategic objectives, and doing so in integrated ways, is likely to make more progress in achieving the vision of the *Strategic Plan* than focusing on one strategic objective alone. Moreover, the concept of funding community-based organizations is woven into many strategies as these organizations are uniquely positioned to reach those populations and geographic areas that are underserved and/or disproportionately impacted by substance use disorder.

The three-component monitoring and evaluation framework informs the assessment of the scope and reach of the investments made using opioid settlement funds and tracks progress on a set of statewide indicators linked to the goals of the *Strategic Plan*. The framework capitalizes on existing State infrastructure and balances research design rigor in ways that require modest investment in evaluation to maximize funding to direct services (Figure 2). It will focus on measuring **grantee-specific outputs** (i.e., units of services delivered), **program-specific activities**, and **state-level indicators** to address a series of suggested questions to inform the Advisory Council's ongoing efforts.

Figure 2. The Strategic Plan focuses on investing in 12 strategies across housing, harm reduction, treatment, and coordinated wraparound service goals and includes a set of indicators to measure progress

GOAL	STRATEGY	OUTPUT MEASURE	STATE-LEVEL INDICATOR
Safe, Stable, and Supportive Housing Increase the availability and accessibility of housing for individuals and families affected by substance use disorder (e.g., Housing First approaches)	Expand Housing First initiatives     Expand affordable, supportive, and transitional and permanent housing models	<ul> <li># of people placed in housing</li> <li>% of people placed in housing who access harm reduction, recovery, and wraparound support services</li> <li># of housing units and vouchers made available</li> </ul>	Drug-related hospital visits (all drugs)  Homelessness among those accessing treatment
Harm Reduction Services Increase access to harm reduction services for people who use substances	Distribute Harm Reduction supplies through community-based organizations     Integrate Harm Reduction services into health care settings     Train emergency services in harm reduction	<ul> <li># of Harm Reduction supplies distributed, by type and location</li> <li># of health care organizations using protocols for Harm Reduction services delivery and referral</li> <li># of staff trained, by location</li> </ul>	MOUD prescriptions  Naloxone distribution in communities  Naloxone incidents
Treatment Services Increase access to treatment services for people who use substances	1. Conduct a treatment gap analysis 2. Expand evidence-based/best practice treatment services (medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) and trauma- informed care) 3. Train facility staff in evidence-based/best practice treatment approaches	List of areas without accessibility to MOUD and/or Medicaid-accepting or state-funded treatment facilities  # of facilities that offer MOUD, by county  #of treatment facility staff trained, by location	New hepatitis C infections  Overdose deaths  Recovery support service participation
Coordinated Wraparound Services Improve the coordination of wraparound supports (e.g., transportation, legal services) provided to individuals and families affected by substance use	Enhance or expand transportation options     Develop guidelines for discharge planning     Expand peer specialist (PS) capacity to provide case management services     Expand family support groups and treatment programs	<ul> <li># of transports provided</li> <li># of treatment facilities applying guidelines for connection to resources</li> <li># of individuals with discharge plan</li> <li># of PSs trained in case management</li> <li># of new/expanded family support groups, by location</li> </ul>	Substance use disorder among people experiencing homelessness  Treatment admissions

Note: The monitoring and evaluation framework prioritizes the use of routinely collected grantee-specific output measures and publicly available state-level indicators. Additional outputs and indicators may be included (e.g., percent of individuals accessing harm reduction services who are experiencing homelessness, new injection-related HIV infections) as additional data are identified and made available. The monitoring and evaluation plan is intended to assess associated changes and broader outcomes to which investment activities may contribute and is not designed to estimate causal relationships.

