



*For IBHC Council Member Review:*

**VOTING INFORMATION FOR  
OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND RECOMMENDATIONS**  
for Fiscal Year 2026

Voting on June 14, 2024

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## Background

The opioid crisis has its roots in a medical and pharmaceutical trend advocating more aggressive treatment of non-palliative care pain. The FDA approved the controlled-release opioid OxyContin in 1995, which was subsequently followed by an aggressive marketing campaign by Purdue Pharma promoting the use of the drug and criminally minimizing its risks. Between 1997 and 2002, prescriptions for oxycodone increased 402%.<sup>1</sup>

Opioid prescriptions continued to proliferate. By 2006, the opioid dispensing rate was 72.4 prescriptions per 100 persons, peaking at 81.3 in 2012.<sup>2</sup>

The rise in prescriptions was accompanied by an increase in overdose deaths involving prescription opioids, followed by an increase in overdose deaths involving heroin beginning in 2010, then fentanyl in 2013.<sup>3</sup> In 2017, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared the opioid crisis a public health emergency. This emergency was [renewed](#) on July 1, 2023.

Following federal and state investigations, cities, counties, and states began to file lawsuits against opioid manufacturers and distributors alleging deceptive trade practices and seeking compensation for addressing the opioid crisis.

## State-Directed Opioid Settlement Fund

The Idaho Attorney General joined nationwide opioid settlements to obtain millions of dollars to direct toward remediating the opioid crisis. The settlement agreements also incorporate local jurisdictions, which receive a portion of the funds according to the Idaho Opioid Settlement Intrastate Allocation Agreement. The agreement specifies the funds are split with the State receiving 40%, cities and counties receiving 40%, and public health districts receiving 20%.

The settlement agreement requires that funds are spent on approved opioid remediation strategies found in [Exhibit A](#).

Idaho Code 57-825 creates the State-Directed Opioid Settlement Fund for the state's portion of the opioid settlement funds. These funds are appropriated by the Idaho Legislature based on recommendations by the Idaho Behavioral Health Council. The statute requires IBHC make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature's Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee by September 1st each year.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2622774/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/rxrate-maps/index.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/opioids/basics/epidemic.html>

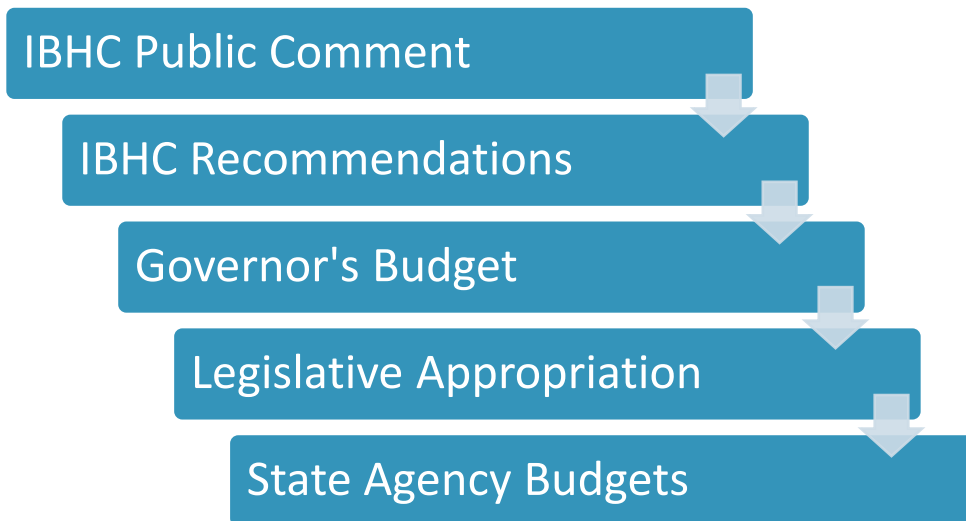
## IBHC Opioid Recommendation Process

State agencies, community organizations, and members of the public were invited to submit proposals for expenditures from the state-directed opioid fund. These proposals are available for council members to review in the accompanying Excel workbook and on the IBHC website.

The IBHC has no spending authority itself to implement recommendations. Its role is limited to providing recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for incorporation into the state budgeting process. Due to the variability of funding from the opioid settlement fund and flexibility of the state budgeting process, the IBHC submits its recommendations as priority requests rather than specific budget items. To facilitate the process for developing recommendations, the public proposals are sorted into voting categories. Council members will vote on the categories and submit those as recommendations to the Governor.

The Governor's Office, Division of Financial Management, and state agency staff have considerable flexibility to incorporate the priority categories into the Governor's budget for Fiscal Year 2026. The budgeting process fleshes out how the priority recommendations are funded and implemented among various state agencies. The original proposals may be referenced during this process, and proposal submitters are encouraged to engage with their elected officials and a potential sponsoring state agency.

During next year's legislative session, the Governor's budget will be submitted to the Legislature in January 2025, and the Legislature will appropriate state agencies' budgets for Fiscal Year 2026. Any projects funded by the Opioid Settlement Fund will be included in a state agency budget. Following the legislative session, the Idaho Behavioral Health Council will publish a memo identifying the projects funded from the state's portion of the Opioid Settlement Fund.



## Developing Voting Categories for IBHC Recommendations

During the public comment period, the IBHC received 33 submissions from state agencies, community and professional organizations, and members of the public.

To facilitate an analysis, each submission was reviewed for specific, qualifying recommendations or proposals. As much as feasible, each of the 70 proposals are summarized and categorized in the accompanying Excel workbook.

The 70 proposals were categorized into eight voting categories representing the spectrum Idaho's behavioral health system.



**As part of their deliberation, IBHC Council members are encouraged to add or redefine any of the voting categories.**



## Voting Categories for FY 2026 Recommendations

During the June 14 meeting, each council member will vote for three of the following categories. The votes will be compiled and the categories receiving the most votes will be forwarded to the Governor as recommendations.

<b>FY2025 VOTING CATEGORIES</b>	<b>Protractor Part</b>	<b>Count</b>
Increase Supply of Behavioral Health Professionals	<i>Infrastructure</i>	7
Professional Development for Health Care Providers	<i>Infrastructure</i>	7
Other Infrastructure – CCBHCs, Data Platform,	<i>Infrastructure</i>	5
Prevention	<i>Prevention</i>	5
Treatment	<i>Treatment</i>	24
Recovery	<i>Recovery</i>	8
Supportive Services for Individuals in Treatment or Recovery	<i>Treatment/Recovery</i>	5
Housing	<i>Treatment/Recovery</i>	7

### General Definitions:

Other Infrastructure – Includes supporting Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers, data platforms, and an opioid coalition.

Prevention – Includes evidence-based activities usually targeted to school-age children and youth to improve resiliency and mental health and reduce risk factors for substance-use disorder. Also includes

Treatment – Services provided by medical and behavioral health professionals. This category includes substance detox, medications for treating substance use disorders, and therapy for behavioral health disorders.

Recovery – Services available to individuals to prevent relapse to active addiction or mental illness. These include peer support services and support groups.

Supportive Services – Helpful services available to facilitate individuals participating in beneficial activities such as treatment, recovery, or employment. Supportive services include transportation, childcare, and housing.

Housing – A supportive service for those undergoing treatment and recovery. Recovery or sober housing is also a housing model that provides a safe and supportive housing option for those in recovery from substance use disorder.

## Accompanying Excel Workbook

This workbook documents the submissions received by the IBHC for consideration for Fiscal Year 2026 funding from the Opioid Settlement Fund.

<b>Description of Named Worksheets</b>	
Coversheet	Provides the same information as this page
List of Proposals	Lists each submission and briefly describes its proposals, along with categories for each proposal.
Counts	The number of proposals for each voting category. The number of proposals according to the allowed opioid abatement strategies for the opioid settlement agreements.
Submissions 1-33	Cut and paste of each email received during the public comment period. Some include embedded links to additional documents fully describing the recommended proposals.

<b>List of Proposals Worksheet Columns Identified</b>	
Column A	Identifies a number for each submission.
Column B	The proposals/recommendations are numbered 1 through 69, as each submission may contain more than one proposal.
Column D	Provides a brief description or paraphrase of the proposal.
Columns E	The alpha numerals correspond to numbered strategies provided in the Opioid Settlement <a href="#">Exhibit A</a> .
<b>Column F</b>	<b>VOTING CATEGORY</b>
Column G	If the submitter provided a cost estimate, that information is noted here.

## Additional Resources

Selected from Idaho Attorney General website:

- Principles for the Use of Funds from the Opioid Litigation - <https://opioidprinciples.jhsph.edu/>
- Primer on Spending Fund from the Opioid Litigation: A Guide for State and Local Decision Makers  
<https://opioidprinciples.jhsph.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Primer-on-Spending-Funds.pdf>