

For Internal Use Only



**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE**

Mission Statement

On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the mission of the **Public Health and Environment Committee** is dedicated to safeguarding the well-being of Baltimore's residents by advancing policies that promote health equity, environmental justice, and sustainability. Recognizing the deep connection between public health and the environment, the committee works to reduce health disparities, improve access to essential services, and address climate-related challenges that impact communities.

**The Honorable Phylicia Porter
Chair**

PUBLIC HEARING

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026
10:00 AM**

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

RECONVENING HEARING

Legislative Oversight #LO25-0022

Oversight of the Opioid Restitution Funds

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS (BA)

Danielle McCray - Chair
Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer – Vice Chair
Sharon Green Middleton
Paris Gray
Antonio Glover
Staff: Paroma Nandi (410-396-0271)

PUBLIC SAFETY (PS)

Mark Conway - Chair
Zac Blanchard – Vice Chair
Danielle McCray
Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer
Paris Gray
Phylicia Porter
Antonio Glover
Staff: Ethan Navarre (410-396-1266)

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (HCD)

James Torrence – Chair
Odette Ramos – Vice Chair
Zac Blanchard
Jermaine Jones
Antonio Glover
Staff: Anthony Leva (410-396-1091)

PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT (PHE)

Phylicia Porter - Chair
Mark Conway - Vice Chair
Mark Parker
Ryan Dorsey
James Torrence
John Bullock
Odette Ramos
Staff: Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)

LABOR AND WORKFORCE (LW)

Jermaine Jones – Chair
James Torrence – Vice Chair
Danielle McCray
Ryan Dorsey
Phylicia Porter
Staff: Juliane Jemmott (410-396-1268)

LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION

Ryan Dorsey – Chair
Sharon Green Middleton – Vice Chair
Mark Parker
Paris Gray
John Bullock
Phylicia Porter
Zac Blanchard
Staff: Anthony Leva (410-396-1091)

EDUCATION, YOUTH AND OLDER ADULT (EYOA)

John Bullock – Chair
Mark Parker – Vice Chair
Sharon Green Middleton
James Torrence
Zac Blanchard
Jermaine Jones
Odette Ramos
Staff: Juliane Jemmott (410-396-1268)

LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATIONS (LI)

Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer - Chair
Antonio Glover – Vice Chair
Ryan Dorsey
Sharon Green Middleton
Paris Gray
Staff: Ethan Navarre (410-396-1266)

CITY OF BALTIMORE

Brandon M. Scott – Mayor
Zeke Cohen – Council President



Office of Council Services

Nancy Mead - Director
100 Holliday Street, Room 415
Baltimore, MD 21202

BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Public Health and Environment

Legislative Oversight: LO25-0022

Oversight of the Opioid Restitution Funds

RECONVENING HEARING

Sponsor: *Councilmembers Porter, et al*

Introduced: *June 16, 2025*

Purpose:

For the purpose of assessing the allocation and impact of the Opioid Restitution funds, ensuring they are utilized effectively to support evidence-based strategies that benefit the city's most vulnerable populations.

Effective: Upon enactment.

Background

On July 16, 2025, the committee held its first hearing on this legislative oversight topic. Following are notes taken during the hearing:

Major Speakers

- Sarah Whalen, Mayor's Office of Overdose and Recovery (MOOR)
 - Sara Gross, Law Department
 - Elizabeth Tantrum, Mayor's Office
 - Laura Larsen, Department of Finance
 - **Public Testimony/Speakers**
 - Dave Fell, BHLI
 - Vern McCormick, Now Life Recovery Center
 - Darci Curwen-Garber, BHRC
 - Candy Kerr, BHRC
-

- Damon Marshall, Nu-Wave Health Services
- Darren Rogers, Executive Director
- Dr. Thurston Smith, Steps 2 Wards Success

Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairwoman Porter gave opening remarks.
2. Public Testimony was allowed first (Approximately seven [7] speakers). Some comments, topics of discussion and/or concerns were:
 - Talked about the PCare Program
 - The importance of partnerships
 - Having proper:
 - Treatment
 - Staff available, and
 - Interaction with clients
 - The importance of meeting people “where they are!”
 - Needs of addicts
 - More funding needed
 - Concern: Employment Opportunities
 - Comments regarding prevention and care
 - Talked about the recent mass overdoses that occurred on Pennsylvania Avenue
 - Trust issues, systemic racism and the competitive nature for getting grants
 - More solutions needed, need for critical thinking, more aggressive approach(s) needed
 - Housing issues
 - Concern: Helping the children whose parents are addicts (What is being done in this area?)
 - Per Dr. Smith, addiction is the number one health crisis!
5. Committee member Bullock gave opening remarks. Some were:
 - Takes this issue and/or work seriously
 - We have the opportunity now to do the work needed!
 - There must be transparency when it comes to reaching those that need to be reached!
 - This is not just a Baltimore City issue but a health issue!
6. Sarah Whalen, (MOOR) conjointly with other city agency representatives gave a PowerPoint Presentation, entitled Oversight of the Opioid Restitution Funds. **A copy is on file.**
7. Committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion, comments and/concerns were:
 - **Questions/Comments/Concerns/etc.:**
 - **Requested by Chairwoman Porter:** Would like for Sarah Whalen and her to come up with a plan for getting information out to the communities.
 - a. **Public facing tool kit for the Council to reach out to communities**
 - She also stated that the City Council is their partner!
 - How do you plan to move your operation forward with limited resources? Talk about this.
 - This is a great opportunity for the City to do the work that is needed!
 - Funds awarded thus far:
 - Where are we now with the total amount of dollars received thus far? Talk about this.
 - **Requested by Committee member Conway:**
 1. **Provide the following information: (By column)**
 - a. **The amount of dollars awarded thus far**
 - b. **Dollars that are still pending**
 - c. **How much will be coming off the top for legal fees**

2. From the \$87 million to be distributed to organizations provide:
 - a. How were the organizations chosen?
 - b. What was the process?
- He also talked about the importance of having input on the “front end” before making decisions.
- Representatives were asked to talk more about the legal process and how it will impact processes moving forward
- Next Budget Cycle
 - Will the Opioid Restitution Fund be spelled out in the budget book whereas if the Council have questions it can refer to same?
 - Also, will there be monthly or quarterly meetings regarding the Fund? Or any reports that will be forthcoming for same?
- Requested by Committee member Torrence:
 - Provide a list for the organizations receiving funds and grants that will serve his district (to be drilled down with meaningful data)
- Housing Issue(s):
 - This is a really big deal!
 - Much more emphasis should focus on housing in the plan! Talk about this.
 - Concern: vacant properties and health disparities
- Role of Hospitals:
 - How are we engaging them? Talk about partnership(s) with the hospitals
 - B-Corp Program: Comments regarding the program and their interaction with hospitals
 - Concern: alignment with hospitals, need to be clearly defined
- To Laura Larsen: In fiscal year 2026, how much is allocated to city agencies? Answer: Approximately \$36 million
 - What is your hope for return on investments? Answer: 3 ½ percent
 - When will the Request for Proposal go out for the \$2 million? Answer: Sometime in the Fall
 - Reinvestment Strategy: When profits (investments) are received will it go back in the fund? Answer: Will go back in the Trust Fund
- Work of the Opioid Fund
 - How will organizations know what the priorities of the funds received will be?
 - When will matrixes (specific) be available?
- Requested by Committee member Parker
 - When available provide what the matrixes will be.
- Prevention Strategies
 - How will prevention strategies be determined?
 - Have you thought about:
 - Working with prescription monitoring programs, with state partners and having hospitals being part of discussions?
- City Agencies
 - How are you monitoring the breakdown of funds in city agencies?
 - How can the Council be more involved in the process?
- Performance Matrixes – How are you measuring success?
 - Comments and concerns regarding quantitative versus qualitative data

- Comments/Remarks: “After hearing the remarks from the public today we need to implement a sound system. How do we make sure we include the needs of all residents? We want to make sure we make a difference with this opportunity!”
8. Chairwoman Porter gave closing remarks. Some of those remarks included:
- Educating public, adequate funding
 - Using funds to the best of our ability (what can be spent vs. not spent)
 - Comments regarding loss of lives
 - This is a rare opportunity; rare funding – an opportunity to transform others!
9. Hearing recessed.

On January 21, 2026, the committee will reconvene the hearing.

Attached is a memorandum from the Mayor’s Office that addresses committee requests during the July 16, 2025, hearing.

Also attached are some recent news articles regarding the fund.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: None

Information Source(s): Notes taken during the July 16, 2025, committee hearing.

Marguerite Currin

Analysis by: Marguerite Currin
Analysis Date: January 19, 2026

Direct Inquiries to: (443) 984-3485

**RESPONSE(S) TO
INQUIRIES/CONCERNS DURING THE
JULY 2025 COMMITTEE MEETING**

SEE ATTACHMENTS



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*100 Holliday Street, Room 250
Baltimore, Maryland 21202*

TO	Chairwoman Phylicia Porter, Public Health and Environment Committee
FROM	Nina Themelis, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
DATE	October 2, 2025
SUBJECT	LO25-0022 - Oversight of the Opioid Restitution Funds
REQUEST TOPIC	Public Health and Environment Committee Hearing Requests from July 16 th Legislative Oversight hearing on Opioid Restitution Funds

Background

At the LO25-0022 - Oversight of the Opioid Restitution Funds Hearing on July 16, 2025, members of the Public Health & Environment Committee requested the following:

- **Request 1:** A plan, including a public facing toolkit, for the Council to reach communities
- **Request 2:**
 - Provide the following information: (By column)
 - The amount of dollars awarding thus far
 - Dollars that are still pending
 - How much will be coming off the top for legal fees
 - From the \$87 million to be distributed to organizations provide:
 - How were the organizations chosen?
 - What was the process?
- **Request 3:** Provide a list of the organizations receiving funds and grants that will serve the 7th district (to be drilled down with meaningful data)
- **Request 4:** Work of the Opioid Fund
 - How will organizations know what the priorities of the funds received will be?
 - When will matrixes (specific) be available?
 - Requested by Committee member Parker: When available provide what the matrices will be.

Response

Request 1: A plan, including a public facing toolkit, for the Council to reach communities

MOOR Response: As stipulated in Mayor Scott's August 29, 2024, Executive Order providing a framework for the use of opioid restitution funds, the Mayor's Office of Overdose Response is preparing a Community Engagement Plan to ensure that residents, including people with substance use disorder, have regular opportunities to provide input for the use of these funds. The City released a draft Community Engagement Plan, which



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*100 Holliday Street, Room 250
Baltimore, Maryland 21202*

was open for public comment from December 17, 2024, through March 15, 2025. The Restitution Advisory Board is currently reviewing the draft Community Engagement Plan and will vote to finalize it at an upcoming meeting.

As part of the City's efforts to promote community engagement, the Mayor's Office of Overdose Response has hosted four listening sessions so that residents can provide feedback on the draft Overdose Response Strategic Plan. These four listening sessions took place on the following dates and at the following locations throughout Baltimore City.

- Wednesday, July 9, 2025: 5:30-8:00 PM at Cherry Hill Elementary and Middle School, 801 Bridgeview Rd. Baltimore, MD 21225
- Thursday, July 17, 2025: 5:30 PM-8:00 PM at Gethsemane Baptist Church, 2520 Francis St., Baltimore, MD 21217
- Wednesday, July 23, 2025: 5:30 PM-8:00 PM at Pimlico Elementary and Middle School, 4849 Pimlico Rd, Baltimore, MD 21215
- Wednesday, August 6, 2025: 5:30 PM-8:00 PM at Henderson Hopkins Elementary and Middle School, 2100 Ashland Ave, Baltimore, MD 21205

The City has also been collecting input from residents on the draft Overdose Response Strategic Plan via a public feedback form that was open through August 29, 2025.

Request 2: Provide the following information: (By column)

- The amount of dollars awarded thus far
- Dollars that are still pending
- How much will be coming off the top for legal fees

OECR Response: The Mayor's Office of Overdose Response and Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs are preparing a dashboard that will provide transparency into the awarding of Opioid Restitution Fund dollars. Currently, \$87 million has been earmarked to 21 organizations named in settlements. The Mayor's Office of Overdose Response and Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs have been engaged in an extensive technical assistance process with each of these 21 named organizations to define scopes of work and develop grant agreements that minimize redundancy and are consistent with the citywide overdose response. As of October 1, 2025, 8 named organizations have reached grant agreements with the City totaling \$27,791,974.00. In addition, \$17.8 million has been provided to City agencies for services involved in the overdose response. Approximately one-third of funds obtained will be used for legal fees, which is consistent with the industry standard

- From the \$87 million to be distributed to organizations provide:



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR
100 Holliday Street, Room 250
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

- How were the organizations chosen?
- What was the process?

Law Department Response: The organizations named to receive funding in settlements were identified during confidential negotiations. As such, the Administration cannot elaborate further.

Request 3: Provide a list of the organizations receiving funds and grants that will serve the 7th district (to be drilled down with meaningful data)

MOOR Response: Location information is provided to BCMOOR and MORP by zip code.

Organization	Services	Zipcode
Penn North Recovery	TBD – Organization is still in the application phase	21217
Bmore Power (BHSB)	Outreach – Peer provided Harm Reduction and service connection outreach to areas of high need	21217, 21215
Maryland Peer Advisory Council	Outreach – Peer provided service connection outreach Baltimore Goes Purple - Naloxone in businesses Recovery Cafe – Provides services and respite to support sustained recovery for the peer workforce	21217, 21215
Peer Navigators at the Pratt	New peer training and peer services	21217, 21215, 21216
Roberta’s House	Grief Support	21217, 21215
Baltimore Safe Haven	Outreach – harm reduction and service connection for the LGBTQ+ community	21217, 21215
Helping Up Mission	Outreach – service connection	21217, 21215, 21216
Turn Around Tuesday	Employment assistance	21215



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

100 Holliday Street, Room 250
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

BCORE	Technical Assistance with Hospital Emergency Departments to improve connection to treatment in the ED	21215
Tuerk House	TBD	21216

Request 4: Work of the Opioid Fund:

- How will organizations know what the priorities of the funds received will be?
- When will matrixes (specific) be available?
- Requested by Committee member Parker: When available provide what the matrices will be.

MOOR Response: The use of the Opioid Restitution Fund will be guided by the priorities, strategies, and activities laid out in the Baltimore City Overdose Response Strategic Plan, which will be updated every two years. The priorities laid out in the draft Strategic Plan for 2025-2027, which were informed by findings from a citywide Needs Assessment conducted by the Baltimore City Health Department, include addressing disparities in Baltimore’s overdose crisis; dismantling silos and improving connections throughout systems of care; confronting systems, policies, and practices that perpetuate stigma; increasing access to low-barrier services for substance use disorders across all neighborhoods; and improving the quality of substance use disorder treatment and recovery services. The draft Strategic Plan lays out 13 strategies and numerous associated activities for advancing these priorities.

Funded organizations’ work is in alignment with the City’s Overdose Response Strategic Plan and future Requests for Proposals will be based on components of the Strategic Plan with the greatest need for additional resources. Transparency on the funded components of the Strategic Plan will be presented in the annual reports and on a dashboard.

Consistent with Mayor Scott’s August 29, 2024, Executive Order, the Mayor’s Office of Overdose Response will prepare an annual report on programs funded through the Opioid Restitution Fund and their performance. This report will be submitted to the Mayor and City Council.

**RECENT NEWS ARTICLES/ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION
PERTAINING TO
THE FUND**

SEE ATTACHMENTS

Baltimore's Opioid Restitution Fund was awarded \$580M. Over 40% has been spoken for.

Chevall Pryce, Baltimore Sun

Mon, October 13, 2025 at 5:00 PM EDT



Yahoo is using AI to generate takeaways from this article. This means the info may not always match what's in the article. Reporting mistakes helps us improve the experience.

Generate Key Takeaways

Of \$579.9 million awarded to Baltimore in opioid settlements, \$392.5 million has been received by the city, with nearly 40% going to legal fees, according to a Baltimore Sun analysis.

Not every drug company has paid the city in full. As of Oct. 1, Baltimore has received payments from six settlements, including one partial payment.

A seventh lawsuit worth over \$150 million that has not yet been paid could face an appeal, city officials said.

Legal costs of \$154.7 million reduced the amount currently available for efforts to mitigate the opioid crisis to \$237.8 million, said Jonas Poggi, rapid response press secretary for the Mayor's Office.

Mayor Brandon Scott signed an executive order in 2024, placing the bulk of settlement money into [Baltimore's Opioid Restitution Fund](#) with a plan to disburse it to government services and community-based programs and organizations focused on providing services for opioid addiction recovery, harm reduction and treatment.

[Where is the \\$579.9 million going](#), and how has it already been used?

The Baltimore Sun filed a public information request for details on spending from the Opioid Restitution Fund under the Maryland Public Information Act.

How much money has gone to lawyers?

Baltimore has paid \$154.7 million in legal fees as of Oct. 1, according to city officials.

Those legal costs could also grow. Poggi said the city could not disclose exactly how much was spent to litigate each lawsuit.

Nearly 40% of the received funds that has been directed to legal fees is considered standard for large-scale lawsuits against corporations, according to Florida attorney Doug Burnetti.

“It is normal for attorneys to charge a contingent fee when hired by government entities and normal to use outside counsel, especially in complex or unusual litigation,” Burnetti said. “In fact, when Florida sued the tobacco industry many years ago they hired a group of private firms and paid a contingent fee. Some firms made around \$250 million each when the case was resolved for several billion dollars.”

Burnetti said the use of outside counsel, rather than government-employed lawyers, helped Baltimore have more expertise on each case rather than spreading government resources thin.

“Using outside firms takes the burden off of the government lawyers who already have busy case loads and not enough time to devote to a very large and complex case such as a prescription drug case or tobacco company case,” he said. “[Paying] 33% or 40% is normal, but some states have limits to 25% and a max of a certain amount.”

How much money has gone into the fund after legal fees?

The city has banked \$237.8 million into the Opioid Restitution Fund so far, according to the mayor's office.

“The \$237 million represents the total amount of money the City has received to date from all agreed-upon settlements after attorneys' fees and litigation costs,” Poggi said.

Allergan, CVS, Cardinal and Teva have all paid their settlements in full. Walgreens paid Baltimore \$45 million of its \$80 million settlement in 2024, and the remainder is expected by December.

The city's \$25 million settlement from a lawsuit against Johnson & Johnson has been received, but the money has not been earmarked for distribution yet, Poggi said.

Monies not currently designated to a specific organization or government program remain in the Opioid Restitution Fund until they have been spent, he said.

A \$152.4 million judgment in the Cencora and McKesson lawsuit, where a judge rejected a jury's proposed award to the city and offered a lower amount, has yet to be received by Baltimore and is "subject to appeals," according to Poggi.

As outlined in Scott's 2024 executive order, the Opioid Restitution Fund is in a trust separate from Baltimore's general fund. The fund can accrue interest, which will be reinvested back into opioid use abatement, an umbrella term that includes prevention, treatment, and recovery. The trust is meant to sustain the funds [for at least 15 years](#), according to the Baltimore City Health Department.

The order requires 5% of the fund to be appropriated annually for opioid use abatement. Poggi said the city chose this requirement after observing other cities and jurisdictions redirecting their opioid settlements to different priorities or not using the funds at all.

"Because of this language and these requirements, the fund — and future interest earned on the fund — will be spent specifically on substance use abatement," Poggi said.

Which government agencies have received money from the Opioid Restitution Fund?

The Sun analysis found \$36.7 million has been claimed by government organizations. The organizations are expected to receive distributions from the Opioid Restitution Fund in Fiscal Year 2026, with the bulk of the allotment going to the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs, which is to receive \$17.9 million over the course of the fiscal year.

As of Sept. 17, Baltimore City has disbursed \$2,230,862.07 to city services and agencies, with the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs, which will oversee the grants, receiving the largest share at \$1,630,409.

[The funding](#) to government agencies and community organizations has been guided by Baltimore's [Overdose Response Strategic Plan](#), which outlines the city's goals, including reducing fatalities, increasing treatment options, supporting recovery, expanding services and minimizing stigma. Community listening sessions, held in July, also informed which organizations would be funded, the city said.

What local groups have received money from the Opioid Restitution Fund?

About \$87 million has been earmarked to [22 community programs](#) and organizations geared toward opioid addiction recovery, harm reduction and treatment. Disbursement of the funds began for seven organizations or programs.

“The city established a process to work with each of these organizations to define specific scopes of work for the use of the money,” Poggi said. “These agreements ensure that the funds are aligned with the city’s strategic response to the overdose crisis and public health best practices as outlined in the Overdose Response Strategic Plan. Additionally, these agreements make sure that a named organization isn’t doing the same work as another group or a city agency.”

Poggi said the community organizations that will receive funding were identified during legal proceedings with pharmaceutical companies, where the city selected each group based on its role in the community and the service provided.

MOORE MONEY, MOORE PROBLEMS: BALTIMORE BLOWS \$11M ON DELINQUENT NONPROFITS IN OPIOID FUND FIASCO

By Carol Hughes / November 7, 2025

Carol Hughes is a contributor for **Direct Line News**.

According to *The Baltimore Sun*, the Baltimore City Opioid Restitution Fund handed out a staggering **\$11 million** to three nonprofits that are officially **delinquent with the Maryland Secretary of State** meaning they failed to file required audits, pay registration fees, or comply with even the most basic accountability standards. In plain English: these groups aren't in good standing, but they got the money anyway.

This isn't pocket change. **Baltimore Safe Haven**, **Charm City Care Connection**, and **Penn North Recovery** were all on the state's delinquent list, yet they collectively raked in millions from Baltimore's share of massive opioid settlements with pharmaceutical giants like **Cardinal Health**, **Allergan**, and **Teva**. A fourth organization, **We Our Us**, was listed as "not current," but still walked away with a cool \$1 million.

Here's where it gets worse—the numbers don't lie. Baltimore Safe Haven, a nonprofit with under \$2 million in reported annual revenue, received \$3 million in settlement cash. Charm City Care Connection, which took in about \$1.6 million in revenue last year, pocketed **\$5 million**. Meanwhile, Penn North Recovery got another \$3 million while reporting millions in executive compensation. In some cases, these organizations received more from settlements than they generated in total revenue.

Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott's office claims that the city "employed several best practices" and conducted "risk assessments." Really? Giving multimillion-dollar grants to nonprofits that are delinquent with the state doesn't sound like a "best practice." It sounds like the political version of handing your car keys to someone with a suspended license and hoping for the best.

And where's Governor Moore in all this? Silent as usual when it comes to real accountability. His administration has been more concerned with photo ops and buzzwords—"equity," "resilience," "community impact"—than with ensuring Maryland's taxpayer dollars are properly safeguarded. The opioid crisis is one of the greatest tragedies in our state's modern history, and instead of setting a national standard for fiscal responsibility, Maryland's leaders are letting the fox guard the henhouse.

Let's not forget that the opioid settlements were supposed to **help victims**, fund treatment programs, and rebuild communities shattered by addiction — not become a slush fund for politically connected nonprofits. The governor can talk all he wants about “transformational change,” but if that transformation involves funneling millions to groups that can't even file their taxes properly, then taxpayers deserve answers.

Even **David Williams** of the **Taxpayers' Protection Alliance** got it right when he said, “If you are a nonprofit, and if you are not in good standing with the state, you should never have access to any taxpayer money or any settlement money, full stop.” Common sense — something sorely missing in the Moore administration.

This entire fiasco underscores the rot at the heart of one-party rule in Maryland. When Democrats control every lever of government, oversight becomes optional, and the line between good intentions and bad governance disappears. Baltimore has become the poster child for what happens when ideology trumps accountability.

Governor Moore loves to talk about “leaving no one behind.” But the people being left behind are the ones still battling addiction, still waiting for treatment beds, still watching their communities crumble while politically favored nonprofits cash multimillion-dollar checks.

It's time for Maryland to demand better. Real transparency. Real audits. Real consequences. Because if Wes Moore can't ensure basic fiscal discipline on something as critical as opioid relief funds, what else is he mismanaging behind the scenes?

Appendix F: Opioid Restitution Fund Community Grant FAQ's

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Nonprofits
Seeking Baltimore City Opioid Restitution Fund Funding

AS OF November 4, 2025

[Additional questions and responses have been updated in purple]

This document contains answers to frequently asked questions regarding the City of Baltimore's Opioid Restitution Fund Community Grant funding. The Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs (MORP) will periodically update the document version on our website in response to stakeholder questions.

For overall information about the program, including how to request funding, please visit arp.baltimorecity.gov/orf or email overdoseresponse@baltimorecity.gov.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. What type of funding is available?

The Baltimore City Opioid Restitution Fund is comprised of funds won by the City of Baltimore in lawsuits against opioid companies to address harms associated with the opioid epidemic.

1.2. How will Baltimore City grant funds to community organizations?

As part of the oversight of Opioid Restitution Funds, the City can provide funds to organization(s) for the purpose of remediating harms associated with the opioid epidemic. Submitting organizations will be required to submit a project proposal to the City. Upon reviewing these proposals, standardized evaluation criteria will be used to score them. Select proposals will be invited to complete a full application. Those applications will also be reviewed with standardized evaluation criteria. The top proposals will be recommended to the Mayor for review and consideration. Once the awards receive approval from executive leadership, the City will announce them to awardees.

1.3. If awarded funds, what reports will be required?

Organizations receiving funds will be required to submit monthly and quarterly program and expenditure reports on City-provided templates.

1.4. What are "community grants"?

"Community grants" refers to funding made available through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process for community-based organizations and nonprofits. This distinguishes them from direct allocations to named organizations. For-profit companies are not eligible to receive these grants.

2. ELIGIBILITY

2.1. What kinds of organizations can submit applications?

Eligible submitting organizations will be those that are not for-profit. If applying for Tier 2 or Tier 3 funding, submitting organizations must have 501(c)3 status. Organizations must be in good financial standing and have a valid Employer Identification Number (EIN).

Organizations that have already received funding or those that have an earmark to receive funds in FY26 from Baltimore City's ORF are not eligible to apply.

Organizations must have proven experience in Baltimore City in effectively serving populations impacted by the opioid overdose crisis. Eligible applicants should provide evidence of effective service delivery, including prior or current programs, outreach initiatives, partnerships, or community engagement efforts. The experience should reflect a culturally responsive, trauma-informed, and community-centered approach, with measurable outcomes or indicators of community trust as evidence of impact.

2.2. Can I submit a proposal using a Fiscal Sponsor?

Yes. Organizations can submit proposals using a Fiscal Sponsor. Organizations should indicate their intention to use a Fiscal Sponsor throughout the proposal. The Fiscal Sponsor can also act as the applicant. If the Fiscal Sponsor has 501(c)3 status, organizations can apply for all funding tiers. Should an organization with a fiscal sponsor be selected to move on to the application stage, due diligence information for both organizations will be required before a project can be selected for funding.

2.3. Can organizations coordinate and jointly submit one project proposal?

Yes, organizations can coordinate and jointly submit one project proposal. However, a lead organization must be chosen to submit the proposal. Should the proposal move to the application stage and be selected for funding, the lead organization will work with the secondary organization as a sub-grantee. All partner organizations should be clearly named and described in the proposal. In cases where an organization uses a fiscal agent, both the fiscal agent and the applying organization may be formally recognized in the grant agreement.

2.4. Can you partner with an organization named in the settlement?

Yes. Partnerships are encouraged to break down silos and strengthen community collaboration. However, proposals that sub-award significant funds to a named organization may receive additional review.

2.5. What kind of projects and programs are eligible for Baltimore City Opioid Restitution Funds?

2.6. This Request for Projects outlines specific guidelines for the activities that will be funded. All projects must align with the "Approved Uses" identified in the Mayor's Executive Order, should address Baltimore City's Overdose Response Strategic Plan, and serve populations in greatest need.

2.7. How can an organization ensure that a project is eligible for funding?

Organizations should address the following questions to self-assess the eligibility of proposed projects:

- Is your organization nonprofit or community-based? (Answer must be "yes" to be eligible for funding.)
- Is your organization named in the Baltimore City Opioid Settlement Agreements? (Answer must be "no" to be eligible for funding.)
- Does your organization currently have an operating location in Baltimore City? (Answer must be "yes" to be eligible for funding.)

Projects should also respond to the requirements of the tier for which they are applying. Information about each tier is in the table below:

	Funding Range	Awards	Funding Requirements
Tier 3	Up to \$500,000	Approximately 2-3 awards	<p><i>Increase availability of low-barrier mobile treatment services, specifically in geographic areas that are disproportionately affected by overdose but may not have the necessary number of services to meet the need (Activity 1c).</i></p> <p><i>Inclusion of Strategic Plan Activities 1b, 7a, and 12c is also highly encouraged.</i></p> <p>Tier 3 funding must include robust Harm Reduction services, as outlined in Activity 7a, which states the City aims to increase access to a full array of low-barrier Harm Reduction services (including naloxone distribution, drug checking, syringe service programs, and other evidence-based strategies), and low-barrier, Harm Reduction-informed clinical treatment.</p>
Tier 2	Up to \$250,000	Approximately 2-4 awards	<p><i>Increase access to a full array of low-barrier harm reduction services (including naloxone distribution, drug checking, syringe service programs, wound care, and other evidence-based strategies) (Activity 7a).</i></p> <p><i>Inclusion of Strategic Plan Activities 1b, 1c, and 12c is also highly encouraged.</i></p> <p>Tier 2 funding must include robust Harm Reduction services, as outlined in Activity 7a, which states the City aims to increase access to a full array of low-barrier Harm Reduction services (including naloxone distribution, drug checking, syringe service programs, and other evidence-based strategies).</p>
Tier 1	Up to \$50,000	Approximately 3-6 awards	<p><i>Increase access to low-barrier social support services (housing, transportation, food assistance, education, and employment) for people who use drugs and people with substance use disorders. (Strategy 12)</i></p> <p><i>Inclusion of Strategic Plan Activities 1b, 1c, 7a, and 12c is also highly encouraged.</i></p>

2.3. How much funding is reserved for community grants?

The City has allocated \$2 million in total to community grants in Fiscal Year 2026.

2.4. Can institutions of higher education apply?

Yes. As long as the institution meets the eligibility requirement of being a non-profit, community organization, or a 501(c)(3), it may apply. Applicants for Tiers 2 or 3 must have 501(c)(3) status.

2.5. Will newly established nonprofits be considered for funding?

Yes, but applicants must have an operating location in Baltimore City and demonstrate a track record of providing services. Newer organizations should show capacity and community connections that meet these requirements.

2.6. Can hybrid organizations (both for-profit and nonprofit) apply?

Yes. An organization with both nonprofit and for-profit arms may apply, but applicants must clearly describe the roles of each and demonstrate that grant funds will not benefit the for-profit entity.

2.7. Can organizations partner with for-profit entities?

Yes, partnerships with for-profit organizations are allowed, but funding cannot directly benefit for-profit partners.

2.8. Do organizations need to establish Overdose Response Programs (ORPs) to apply?

No. Being an established ORP is not required, but it is encouraged. Applicants for Tier 2 (comprehensive harm reduction services) should clearly outline how they will obtain harm reduction supplies such as naloxone or testing strips.

2.9. If an organization received other Baltimore City Opioid Restitution Funding as a named organization, can they still receive community grant funding?

No. Organizations named in settlement agreements that receive funding from the Baltimore City Opioid Restitution Fund are currently ineligible to apply for community grants. However, they can partner with another organization as a sub-grantee (see the response to 2.12 above).

2.10. How can we tell if our organization was named in the settlement agreement?

Organizations named in the settlement were notified directly and featured in a [public press announcement](#). These organizations are already working with the Mayor's Office of Overdose Response and the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs.

2.11. Can a lead organization still be considered if its partner is a past grantee or a named entity in the settlement?

Yes. Lead organizations partnering with past grantees or named entities are still eligible. These applications will be reviewed in full context to ensure compliance with funding requirements.

2.12. Do applicants need to have a physical or brick-and-mortar location in Baltimore City?

No. Organizations do not need to own or lease a physical location. However, applicants must have a history of serving people in Baltimore City and demonstrate an operational presence within the city.

Operating out of a partner site—such as a church, community center, or another organization's facility—is acceptable as long as services are delivered in Baltimore City.

2.13. Are only nonprofit organizations allowed to apply?

Per the eligibility criteria, submitting organizations must not be for-profit.

- For Tier 1 (Social Support Services), applicants do not need to have 501(c)(3) status. Community-based organizations are eligible. Community-based organizations may be nonstock corporations and must be registered and in good standing with the State of Maryland Department of Assessments & Taxation.
- For Tiers 2 and 3 (Harm Reduction, Mobile Treatment and Social Support Services), applicants must have 501(c)(3) status.

2.14. Can an organization apply for all tiers through a partnership?

Yes. A fiscal agent or lead organization with 501(c)(3) status may apply on behalf of partners for all three tiers. However, an organization is only eligible to receive funding for one proposal in this cycle.

2.15. Can a nonprofit organization outside of Baltimore City (e.g., Harford County) apply?

To be eligible, organizations must operate in Baltimore City and deliver services to Baltimore City residents.

For example, a nonprofit located in Harford County that also operates out of a Baltimore City partner site may qualify.

Fiscal Sponsors do not need to be based in Baltimore City as long as the submitting organization has operations in Baltimore City and the Fiscal Sponsor is registered in Maryland.

2.16. Is the funding limited to Baltimore City residents?

Yes. Funding from the Opioid Restitution Fund is intended only for programs operating in and serving residents of Baltimore City.

2.17. Can quasi-City entities apply for funding through this process?

As an addendum to the Submitting Organization Eligibility section of the Instructions for Proposals for Funding for Baltimore City Opioid Restitution Fund Community Grants dated October 23, 2025, there is added that Organizations:

- Must not be a quasi-City entity, or an affiliate or subsidiary of that entity, that can be or is funded by the City through its annual budgeting process.

3. APPLICATIONS

3.1. Can I use AI to write my proposal or application?

Generative AI can answer questions and generate text, images, and media. For this proposal, we do not explicitly prohibit organizations from using AI. However, please do not attempt to answer proposal questions solely with generative AI, as it lacks context and generally does not provide sufficiently accurate responses. Always find, verify, and cite sources for ideas. Your organization is responsible for verifying sources and facts. Generative AI tools sometimes invent facts and sources. Proposals that are incorrect or lack sufficient detail are less likely to receive funding.

3.2. When can nonprofit organizations apply for funding?

The application portal will open on October 23, 2025, and close on November 23, 2025, at 11:59 pm.

3.3. Can an organization submit multiple proposals, and if they do, can more than one be selected for funding?

Yes, multiple applications may be submitted; however, only one project per organization will be selected for funding.

3.4. How detailed does the organization's proposal have to be?

A proposal is a concise overview of the proposed project. It provides a project description, identifies potential performance measures, and offers a high-level overview of the budget and potential cost impacts. It also includes organizational information to ensure that organizations meet the requirements to receive Opioid Restitution Funds. *Provide as much relevant detail as possible within the proposal form, especially in relation to the [scoring criteria](#).* The information provided in the proposal will be reviewed for eligibility by MORP and BCMOOR. Character limits are included in each question. *The complete application phase will require additional detail, building on your initial proposal.*

3.5. Can a sub-grantee on one proposal apply for another separate grant?

Yes. Being a sub-grantee on one application does not prevent an organization from submitting its own separate proposal.

3.6. Is there a page limit for proposals?

There are character limits for each section of the proposal form.

3.7. How is the application submitted—uploaded or entered directly?

Applications are completed through the online portal with line-by-line responses. Applicants may upload supporting documents in the optional "Additional Information" section (up to 9MB total).

3.8. Can proposals be started, saved, and resumed later?

Yes. Applications can be saved and edited before submission. Multiple collaborators may work on a proposal simultaneously.

3.9. Can applicants preview the application without submitting it?

Yes. After completing the eligibility section, you can view all [proposal questions](#). However, full application questions are only visible once a proposal is submitted and selected to advance.

https://arp.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/RFP_ORF_Applicant_Instructions_Appendix C.pdf

4. PROCESS

4.1. Is there a user guide for the application portal?

Yes, a user guide is included in the application instructions, which can be found in [Appendix G](#). MORP will also provide an orientation for submitting organizations on [October 26 at 10 am](#) and [October 27 at 6 pm](#), and will review the use of the portal at that time.

4.2. Can multiple users work on one application?

Yes, multiple users can work together by using the "collaborate" function in the online application.

4.3. Can a project proposal be saved and edited later?

Yes, the online application portal allows a proposal to be saved during the editing process and completed later.

4.4. How are applications evaluated?

If the project is determined to be eligible for funding, the proposal will then be scored against 100-point criteria by the Proposal Review Team. Proposals receiving an average score greater than 80 will be reviewed by the full Restitution Advisory Board, which will select proposals that will advance to the application stage. The criteria are in [Appendix C](#).

4.5. When will an organization be notified if a project has been chosen for funding?

Applicants will receive regular email communication from MORP via the portal through each step of the process. There is no commitment to fund any project until a City executive has approved it through the process outlined in the "Applicant Instructions" document.

4.6. Can an organization withdraw its project proposal?

Yes, an organization can withdraw its project proposal at any stage prior to signing the grant agreement.

4.7. What is the timeline for awards?

- Applications open [October 23, 2025](#)
- Initial proposals due November 23, 2025
- Final applications due January 25, 2026
- Awards will support programming for up to two years

4.8. What financial documents are required?

Applicants must provide:

- Their most recent operating budget
- Any recent financial audits or findings
- Proof of good standing with the State of Maryland (a printed eSTAT lookup is acceptable)
- Applicants will also need to provide a general overview of how the requested funds will be allocated across activities.

Organizations awarded funds may be requested to provide other financial documentation as applicable.

4.9. Will responses to applicant questions be made public?

Yes. This consolidated FAQ document is available on the program website: arp.baltimorecity.gov/org. It is regularly updated to include all questions and answers from information sessions and training events.

5. FUNDING, TIERS, AND SCOPE

5.1. What tier does public education fall into?

Public education is broad and may only fit if it directly supports activities outlined within a specific tier, such as mobile treatment, harm reduction services, or social supports. Projects unrelated to these core activities are unlikely to be eligible this round.

5.2. How long can funding support a project?

Funding can cover up to two years. The maximum award amount (for example, \$500,000 for Tier 3) applies to the entire project period, not per fiscal year.

5.3. Are there geographic restrictions for mobile services?

No specific restrictions apply. Applicants should prioritize areas with high overdose rates, using data from the City's [needs assessment](#). Mobile services are encouraged for their flexibility in moving to where the need is greatest.

5.4. Is the purchase of a vehicle or van allowable?

Refer to [Appendix A](#) of the RFP for allowable and unallowable costs. Generally, if an expense is not listed as unallowable, it is considered allowable so long as it correlates to an activity within a specific tier.

5.5. What qualifies as an unallowable “large construction project”?

The current funding round prioritizes direct service delivery over capital projects.

- Large-scale or long-term construction efforts are not eligible.
- Small-scale improvements that directly support service delivery (e.g., outfitting a space for harm reduction or mobile treatment) may be allowable if consistent with program goals.

Applicants should focus on activities that can be implemented and make a measurable impact within the two-year grant period.

5.6. Will additional funding opportunities be available in future years? For example, will there be future grant rounds for other focus areas, such as developing opioid alternatives or expanding access to medication for opioid use disorder?

Yes. This is the first competitive funding opportunity from the Opioid Restitution Fund (ORF). Future rounds will be shaped by annual budget allocations and the City's ongoing overdose response priorities.

Future funding priorities will be based on the City's Comprehensive Needs Assessment and updates to the Overdose Response Strategic Plan, with guidance

from the Restitution Advisory Board. These areas may be considered if identified as priority needs.

The Mayor's Executive Order establishing the ORF requires that the fund be sustained for at least 15 years, ensuring ongoing support for Baltimore's long-term overdose prevention and recovery efforts.