



July 2025

Opioid Settlement Funds Annual Report



Introduction

In early 2023, staff from Scott County Health Department and Scott County Community Services formed a Core Team to lead a community planning process for Scott County to determine how to utilize funds from opioid settlement litigations. Exhibit E lists allowable opioid remediation uses identified in the settlement. Strategies within Schedule A are “core abatement strategies”, indicating there is a strong evidence base to support their use. For more information on this process, see the Opioid Settlement Funds Report published in March 2024 [here](#). As a result of this process, the Opioid Settlement Steering Committee prioritized two core strategies for the initial use of funds: 1) Fund warm hand-off programs and recovery services and 2) Enrich evidence-based prevention strategies.

This report describes work to support the strategies between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, Scott County Fiscal Year 2025.

Prioritized Strategies

Core Strategy #5: Fund warm hand-off programs and recovery services

For individuals struggling with substance use, transitions between care and connections to needed resources can be difficult to navigate. Assistance with these transfers (i.e. warm hand-offs) can help individuals successfully start receiving treatment and support services, such as beginning medications for opioid use disorder treatment, transitioning to a residential recovery facility, or receiving support services like housing, transportation, job placement, and treatment for co-occurring mental health conditions.

Core Strategy #7: Enrich evidence-based prevention strategies

The settlements recommended the funding of evidence-based primary prevention programs, which have been shown to prevent risk factors for both substance use and mental health problems by promoting positive youth development. These programs are most effective when they are delivered in a tiered fashion, are inclusive of parents and other caregivers, and are implemented in a way that is trauma informed, culturally sensitive, and equitable.

Year 1 Progress (July 2024 – June 2025)

Core Strategy #5: Fund warm hand-off programs and recovery services

Strategy: Opioid Care Coordinators

At the direction of the Opioid Steering Committee and following approval by the Scott County Board of Supervisors, an opioid care coordinator position was added to the Scott County Community Services table of organization. In November 2024, the position was filled and work to promote the program and make community connection was started.

The opioid care coordinator:

- Manages and coordinates incoming referrals from healthcare providers, community partners, social service agencies, local government agencies, Scott County Jail, and other organizations who have contact with individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD).

- Conducts comprehensive evaluations to accurately assess individual needs and ensure access to appropriate services.
- Provides continuous support by guiding individuals through the service system, coordinating multi-disciplinary efforts, and ensuring seamless transitions and integrated treatment and supports.
- Makes connections to housing, employment, childcare, and social services.
- Maintains frequent communication with individuals to assist in navigating services and ensuring adherence to treatment plans.
- Offers ongoing support, such as transportation to appointments and related service meetings, to facilitate engagement and continuity of care for individuals struggling with OUD.

During the first year, the opioid care coordinator:

- Established connections with housing assistance, medication assisted treatment services, human trafficking resources, clothing assistance, drug court and mental health courts in Iowa and Illinois, and mental health services.
- Distributed resource bags containing a list of local area providers, overdose prevention information, and medication assisted treatment information to local emergency department providers to hand out to individuals impacted by drug use.
- Included contact cards for the opioid care coordinator with the naloxone that MEDIC EMS of Scott County provides to individuals as part of the leave-behind naloxone program.

	FY25	Total
Number of People Served	104	104

Core Strategy #7: Enrich evidence-based prevention strategies

Strategy: School-based prevention programs

The Opioid Core Team facilitated a series of meetings with representatives from each of the Scott County public school districts (Bettendorf, Davenport, North Scott, and Pleasant Valley) to discuss the feasibility of implementing evidence-based prevention programs that would help reduce substance use and mental health problems among youth. All school districts shared interest in working together to review and narrow down options for curriculums since Tier 2 and Tier 3 prevention programs have been identified as a need in every district, there is student movement between districts, and there could be cost sharing for training facilitators.

The four districts independently identified the curriculum, Character Strong, as an evidence-based prevention curriculum that would meet their district's needs. Two of the four districts were currently implementing portions of the Character Strong curriculum and spoke highly of it from a staff and student perspective. A 28E agreement between the Scott County Board of

Supervisors and each school district formalizes a relationship to fund and implement the curriculum beginning in the 2025-2026 school year.