

# Community Engagement Plan for Opioid Settlement Funds Strategic Planning

**Bernalillo County and City of Albuquerque**

April 30, 2024

Prepared by Vital Strategies

# Table of Contents

<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Definitions</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Overview</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Background</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Overdose Crisis .....	5
Opioid Settlement Funds .....	6
City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County Resolution 23-174 .....	7
<b>Purpose of Community Engagement</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Listening and Learning from the Community .....	8
Goals .....	8
<b>Stakeholder Groups</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Engagement Methods and Strategies</b> .....	<b>16</b>
Inviting the Community to Participate .....	16
<b>Community Engagement Process &amp; Outreach Action Steps</b> .....	<b>17</b>
Engagement Strategies .....	17
<b>Communicating the Planning Progress</b> .....	<b>24</b>
Public Updates .....	24
Presenting Final Recommendations to City and County Leadership .....	24
<b>Resources</b> .....	<b>25</b>
Overdose Crisis .....	25
Opioid Settlement Fund .....	25

## Definitions

- **Equitable:** Everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain their highest level of health. ([CDC](#))
- **Facilitate:** To help (something, such as a discussion) run more smoothly and effectively. ([Merriam Webster](#))
- **Opioid:** Opioids are a class of drugs used to treat moderate to severe pain. Opioids include some prescription pain medications (Vicodin, oxycodone, morphine, etc.), fentanyl (a synthetic opioid), and heroin. Opioids block pain signals between the brain and the body. Opioids can make some people feel relaxed, happy, or “high,” and they can be dependence-forming. Side effects may include slowed breathing, constipation, nausea, confusion, and drowsiness. ([Faith in Harm Reduction](#))
- **Opioid Settlement Funds:** Funds resulting from lawsuits filed by state and local governments against companies whose actions contributed to the opioid overdose crisis.
- **Overdose:** Drug overdose happens when an individual has taken too much of one or more substances. Overdoses can be accidental or intentional and cause serious medical problems or death.
- **Overdose Rate:** The rate of individuals ingesting a deadly amount of a drug. This is typically reflected as the number of people who have died per 100,000.
- **Perspectives:** A particular attitude toward or way of regarding something; a point of view. ([Oxford Learners Dictionaries](#))
- **Resolution:** A resolution is a record of decisions or wishes of the council and includes routine administrative and management matters. ([Public Health Ontario](#))
- **Stakeholder:** One who is involved in or affected by a course of action. ([Merriam Webster](#))
- **Stimulant:** Chemical substances (“uppers”) that activate the brain and body, producing effects including alertness, increased focus, and increased heart rate. Examples include cocaine and methamphetamine. ([NASTAD](#))
- **Strategic Plan:** Guides and strengthens a community’s ... ability to carry out its public health functions. It provides a guide for making decisions; allocating human and financial resources; and pursuing time-bound, measurable strategies and priorities. ([Minnesota Department of Health](#))

## Overview

On October 26, 2023, the City of Albuquerque and County of Bernalillo passed mirror resolutions requiring that a City-County strategic plan be approved before opioid settlement funds are spent. Opioid settlement funds refer to funds from lawsuits brought against companies whose actions contributed to the opioid overdose crisis. Funds received from these settlements are meant to be used to address the harms caused by the opioid overdose crisis, which include but are not limited to opioid overdose deaths. The resolution passed by the City and County governments has specific requirements on how the strategic plan is to be developed, including that an independent person or organization facilitate the planning process and that the community is engaged to provide suggestions on how funds should be spent to address the overdose crisis.

Vital Strategies, a global health organization, was selected by the City of Albuquerque and County of Bernalillo to facilitate the strategic planning process. To meet the requirements outlined in the resolution, and to make sure that opinions and ideas from the community and the people who have been most impacted by the overdose crisis is received, Vital Strategies has hired a local consultant, SBS Evaluation & Program Development Specialists, LLC, who will serve as a community engagement organizer to conduct outreach and facilitate conversations with community members on how opioid settlement funds should be spent. Feedback received from the community will be incorporated in the opioid settlement funds strategic plan.

This document explains the community engagement plan with details about how community members can share feedback.

# Background

## Overdose Crisis

Drug overdoses are a leading cause of accidental deaths in the United States. In the U.S., over 100,000 people die each year to overdose and over 1 million people have died from overdose since 1999.<sup>1</sup> 75% of overdose deaths involve an opioid.<sup>1</sup> Opioids like oxycodone, heroin, and fentanyl are types of drugs that relieve pain. Drug overdose happens when an individual has taken too much of one or more substances. Overdoses can be accidental or intentional and cause serious medical problems or death. Over the past few years, deaths involving illegally made fentanyl have been on the rise.<sup>2</sup> Nationally, deaths caused by the use of drugs like cocaine and methamphetamine are also increasing.

The overdose crisis affects all people—rich or poor, rural, or urban, people of color and white people—but not all populations have been affected the same. Between 2021 and 2022, the rate of drug overdose deaths increased for American Indian and Alaska Native, Black, Hispanic and Asian populations.<sup>3</sup> The overdose crisis is complex and has changed over time with many deaths now involving synthetic opioids like fentanyl, and increasingly, stimulants like methamphetamine.<sup>3</sup>

In 2021, New Mexico had the 6th highest overdose rate in the country, with an estimate of 1029 overdose deaths and an overdose rate of 50.6.<sup>4</sup> This means that for every 100,000 people in New Mexico, an average of 50.6 people died from an overdose. Just as the impact of the overdose crisis varies from state to state with some states having a higher rate of overdose than others, there are also differences in overdose rates county by county within states. In 2021, Bernalillo County experienced the highest

---

<sup>1</sup> Drug Overdose Deaths Remained high in 2021. (CDC) Drug Overdose Deaths; August 22,2023.

<sup>2</sup> The Facts about Fentanyl. (CDC) Fact sheet.

<sup>3</sup> Spencer MR, Garnett MF, Miniño AM. Drug overdose deaths in the United States, 2002–2022. NCHS Data Brief, no 491. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2024. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc:135849>

<sup>4</sup> Addressing Substance Use Disorders. (New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee) Program Evaluation Unit Legislative Finance Committee Progress Report. August 24,2023

number of overdose deaths in the state of New Mexico, with an estimated 456 overdoses.<sup>4</sup> While Bernalillo County did not have the highest overdose rate of all New Mexico counties, the county's overdose rate of 66.28 was higher than the state's rate.<sup>2</sup> Almost half (44%) of the overdoses in New Mexico in 2021 happened in Bernalillo County.<sup>4</sup>

## Opioid Settlement Funds

"Opioid settlement funds" mean funds resulting from lawsuits filed by state and local governments against companies whose actions contributed to the opioid overdose crisis. They include money from settlements with pharmaceutical distributors, manufacturers, and retail pharmacies. All 50 states and U.S territories will receive a share of more than \$50 billion in opioid settlement funds over 18 years. Separate settlements totaling more than \$1.5 billion are available to federally recognized Tribes and Tribal health organizations. Each state is dividing settlement funds between state and local governments in its own way.

New Mexico will receive around \$1 billion dollars over 18 years. Forty-five percent (45%) of the funds will go to the state and 55% will go to local governments. As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, Bernalillo County and the City of Albuquerque have received \$27,681,158.43 in opioid settlement funds so far, with more dollars expected in future years.

Opioid settlement funds are meant to address harm caused by the opioid overdose crisis. Local governments in New Mexico must spend opioid settlement funds on programming and policies to address harms caused by the opioid overdose crisis. The majority of the opioid settlement funds must be spent on future programs which presents an opportunity to fund programs and initiatives that have not been funded in the past.

## **City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County Resolution 23-174**

On October 26, 2023, the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County passed mirror resolutions requiring that City and County leadership develop a strategic plan on how to spend opioid settlement dollars before more funds are spent. The resolution has requirements on how the strategic plan must be developed. Requirements include that City and County leadership hire an independent person or organization to facilitate the planning process; that New Mexico state government, Tribal governments, and local governments are asked to provide suggestions; and that the community (including health service providers and people directly impacted by the overdose crisis) is engaged to provide ideas on how funds are spent and feedback on the strategic plan.

The City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County have partnered with Vital Strategies to facilitate the planning process for opioid settlement funds that will be spent in the fiscal year of 2025. Vital Strategies is a global health organization and the implementation partner in the Bloomberg Overdose Prevention Initiative partnering with governments and communities to achieve an equitable and sustainable reduction in overdose deaths. To support the development of the strategic plan for 2025, Vital Strategies will identify the strengths, resources, and needs of the community to address the overdose crisis and facilitate community engagement to receive ideas and opinions from the community on how opioid settlement funds should be used. This information will be used by Vital Strategies to develop a strategic plan.

# Purpose of Community Engagement

## Listening and Learning from the Community

The mirror resolution passed by the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County on opioid settlement fund spending requires that the community be engaged in the development of a strategic plan on how funds will be spent. It is recognized that community members of all backgrounds have been affected by the overdose crisis, and that their experiences and knowledge will be helpful in identifying programs and policies that can help equitably reduce overdose and overdose deaths. The strategic plan that will be developed will affect the community. People and organizations that will be affected by the plan will be called “stakeholders.”

Vital Strategies has hired a local consultant, SBS Evaluation & Program Development Specialists, LLC, who will serve as a community engagement organizer to conduct outreach and facilitate conversations with community members on how opioid settlement funds should be spent. Feedback received for the community will be incorporated in the opioid settlement strategic plan.

## Goals

The goals of the community engagement process are as follows:

- ❖ Improve community engagement between community members to listen, build relationships and learn from each other about the different ways City and County communities, individuals and families are affected by the overdose crisis.
- ❖ Get community input, opinions, and ideas from across the City and County on how drug use and current responses to drug use affect the community and how responses and programs can be improved.
- ❖ Ensure that community members are part of the planning process to inform the development of a City and County strategic plan to equitably and sustainably reduce overdoses.



- ❖ Create a report that summarizes the key themes from community feedback and share that report with City and County leadership.

## Stakeholder Groups

Many people are affected by the overdose crisis, but the way they are affected may differ. For example, people may personally experience or be at risk of having an overdose, or they may have lost a loved one to overdose. A person may be affected by the overdose crisis because they work in the medical or social service field, directly providing services to people who use drugs. People may also be affected differently by policy and programming decisions that are made about how to use opioid settlement funds to address the overdose crisis. Different points of views from people who have been affected by the overdose crisis, and from people who will be impacted by opioid settlement fund spending, will be gathered during the community engagement process.

The variety of points of views and ideas will help identify the different ways people may need help. This is important because just like there are many factors that led to the overdose crisis, we will need many ways to address the harms caused by the overdose crisis. The table below shows some stakeholder groups will be engaged during the community engagement period in various forms, and why their points of view are important.

Town hall meetings will be offered in each County commission district and these meetings will be open to the public. All residents are welcome to attend and will have the chance to provide their perspective on how to address the overdose crisis.

Stakeholder Group	Expected Participants	Why their feedback is important
-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------------------

<p>People with Lived and Living Experience</p>	<p>Individuals who use drugs and individuals who are in recovery who previously used drugs</p>	<p>People with lived and living experience know firsthand what has helped them stay alive and healthy during substance use and what barriers and challenges may be faced when seeking services. They may be participants of initiatives funded with opioid settlement funds. This may also include people with lived and living experience who are unhoused and/or have previously been incarcerated.</p>
<p>Lawmakers and Other City and County Leadership</p>	<p>Lawmakers, law enforcement, and school board members</p>	<p>Lawmakers and other City and County leadership are decision makers. They have the authority to make decisions on policies and programs that affect people impacted by the overdose crisis.</p>
<p>Medical and Behavioral Health Leaders</p>	<p>People who are medical providers such as doctors, nurses, therapists, and healthcare paraprofessionals. People who serve on health advisory boards.</p>	<p>Medical and behavioral health leaders have experiences on what has worked in providing healthcare services for people who use drugs and want treatment, and what challenges they face in providing these services. This is one group that is responsible for starting, carrying out, and providing services for people who use drugs.</p>
<p>Black Community</p>	<p>People who identify as Black race. These people may also fall under another stakeholder group, such as Black individuals with lived</p>	<p>People belonging to the Black community can provide perspective on how their specific community has been impacted by the overdose crisis and what challenges Black people who use drugs may face. Black people experience a higher overdose rate than white people.</p>

	<p>experience, Black medical and behavioral health providers, Black law enforcement staff, et cetera.</p>	
<p>Latinx Community</p>	<p>People who identify as Latinx ethnicity. These people may also fall under another stakeholder group, such as Latinx individuals who use drugs. Latinx medical and behavioral health providers, Latinx law enforcement, et cetera.</p>	<p>People belonging to the Latinx community can provide perspective on how their specific community has been impacted by the overdose crisis and what challenges Latinx people who use drugs may face. Latinx people experience a higher overdose rate than people who identify as non-Hispanic.</p>
<p>Urban Native Community</p>	<p>People belonging to the urban Native community. These people may also fall under another stakeholder group, such as Native individuals who use drugs, Native medical and behavioral health providers, Native law enforcement, et cetera.</p>	<p>People belonging to the urban Native community can provide perspective on how their specific community has been impacted by the overdose crisis and what challenges urban Native people who use drugs may face. Native people experience a higher overdose rate than white people.</p>

<p>Family Members of People who Use Drugs</p>	<p>People who are family members of people who use drugs or people who have lost a family member to drug overdose.</p>	<p>Some family members support a family member who is using drugs by helping them navigate the substance use services world. These family members will have knowledge regarding what families need in supporting a family member who uses drugs. Some family members become caretakers of children of a family member who is incarcerated due to drug use or who has overdosed. They will have opinions on how to support families taking care of children who have lost a parent due to drug use.</p>
<p>Public Health and Social Services Providers</p>	<p>People who work for public health and social services organizations including but not limited to unhoused service providers and harm reduction service providers.</p>	<p>People working in public health and social services interact with people who use drugs and will have experiences on the support needed and challenges encountered by people accessing safe housing, employment, and health and wellness services.</p>
<p>LGBTQI Advocacy and Service Providers</p>	<p>People who identify as and belong to the LGBTQI Community. These people may also fall under another stakeholder group, such as LGBTQI individuals who use drugs and LGBTQI medical, behavioral health and social services providers.</p>	<p>LGBTQI community members and service providers will be able to provide ideas and opinions on how to better connect this community to health and wellness services. The LGBTQI communities is at high risk for substance use and faces challenges in accessing health and wellness services.</p>

<p>Leaders and members of the Pueblos and Native nations in the geography of Bernalillo County</p>	<p>Tribal leaders and Tribal members of the Pueblos and Native nations in the geography of Bernalillo County (e.g., Sandia Pueblo, Isleta Pueblo, Laguna Pueblo, and the To'Hajilee Cañoncito Band of Navajos). These people may also fall under another stakeholder group, such as Native individuals who use drugs, Native medical and behavioral health providers, Native law enforcement, et cetera.</p>	<p>Tribal leaders can provide suggestions on how they would like to be involved with County and City opioid settlement fund strategic planning in a way that respects their status as sovereign Native nations. Tribal leaders and Tribal members can provide perspective on how their specific communities have been impacted by the overdose crisis and what challenges people who use drugs in their communities may face. Native people experience a higher overdose rate than white people.</p>
<p>Youth Service Providers, and Parents of youth and young people</p>	<p>Service providers and parents who are involved in the growth and development of youth and young people.</p>	<p>Service providers, and parents can provide important ideas on how to better support the youth in the community. They can share specific challenges and opportunities in offering resources for them and their parents.</p>

<p>Educational Institutions</p>	<p>K-12 Educators &amp; Paraprofessionals, Local Universities, and Colleges.</p>	<p>People working in educational institutions can provide suggestions on how to support youth and adults with prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery services.</p>
<p>Migrant and Immigrant Community</p>	<p>Individuals who identify as a migrant or immigrant who live in the in the geography of Bernalillo County.</p>	<p>Migrant and Immigrant community members can provide ideas and help identify challenges that they may face in accessing health and wellness services.</p>

## **Engagement Methods and Strategies**

### **Inviting the Community to Participate**

An important step in the community engagement plan process is letting stakeholders know that they have the opportunity to give opinions and ideas on how opioid settlement funds should be spent. Vital Strategies has hired a local consultant, SBS Evaluation & Program Development Specialists, LLC, to conduct outreach and facilitate conversations with community members on how opioid settlement funds should be spent. Feedback received from the community will be incorporated in the opioid settlement strategic plan. A variety of ways to reach community members will be used to let as many people as possible know about the opportunities to provide feedback, including but not limited to going to where community members work and gather. For example, the community engagement consultant may meet with Tribal Governors, meet with Tribal behavioral health and social service programs, visit cultural events such as festivals, visit local organizations known to provide services to those most impacted by opioids, visit trusted community agencies, visit harm reduction and medical organizations, and attend school board meetings.



## Community Engagement Process & Outreach Action Steps

The community engagement process action steps will be carried out over the course of May - July 2024 and include the following activities:

1. Organize a series of community consultation events and spaces for residents and impacted community members to provide suggestions, ensuring accessibility, awareness, and participation of a diverse range of County residents.
2. Distribute an online survey form open to all County residents.
3. Publicize and raise awareness of the events through media ads, press announcements, and outreach through County civic and community-serving organizations as well as community leaders.

Other ways the community engagement consultant may spread the word about the opportunity include:

- ❖ Press releases
- ❖ Posts on City and County websites and social media pages
- ❖ Working with harm reduction, unhoused services, and treatment providers to hand out flyers to patients and clients
- ❖ Advertisement on local TV and radio shows.

During the outreach and engagement process, translation services will be used as needed for other languages other than English and Spanish. All materials (such as flyers) will be available in both English and Spanish. Activities to let the community know about the opportunity to participate in community engagement will take place between May 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Engagement Strategies

This section explains the community engagement strategy, including the stakeholder groups that will be contacted to provide ideas and opinions, how the ideas and opinions of the stakeholder groups will be collected, and when the engagement will happen. The goal of each engagement strategy is to understand the ideas and opinions of various stakeholders. Common ideas will be grouped as key themes and will be used to develop the strategic plan.

<b>Strategy 1: Community Outreach</b>		
<b>Format</b>	<b>Intended Audience</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
In person, Phone & Virtual Calls, Emails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advisory Groups &amp; Subcommittees                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ BernCo Behavioral Health Initiatives (BHI) Crisis Subcommittee.</li> <li>○ BHI Prevention, Intervention, and Harm Reduction</li> <li>○ CABQ Health Equity Council</li> <li>○ BHI Addiction Treatment Advisory Board Subcommittee</li> <li>○ BHI Housing Subcommittee</li> <li>○ BHI Community Supports Subcommittee</li> </ul> </li> <li>• City and County law enforcement and leadership                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New Mexico Corrections Department</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Faith Based Entities                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Church, Parishes, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Harm Reduction Organizations</li> <li>• Community Health Centers and Hospitals                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ UNM Medical Group</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May - July 2024</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Mexico Department of Health</li> <li>• Support Groups             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Keep New Mexico Alive</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Community Cultural Events             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Juneteenth</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Community School Partnerships &amp; Events             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Albuquerque Bernalillo County (ABC) community school partnership summit-June 2024</li> <li>○ School-Based Health Center Alliance</li> <li>○ Youth Development Incorporated New Mexico</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Public Health and Social Service Providers</li> <li>• Local Community Meetings</li> </ul>	
--	--	--

Strategy 2: Host and facilitate five townhalls, in each of the five County Commission Districts		
Format	Intended Audience	Timeline
Virtual or in person <b>**Hybrid recommended</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents of the commission in which the town hall is being hosted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June - July 2024</li> </ul>

Strategy 3: Host and facilitate a minimum of 10 listening sessions, each tailored to a specific stakeholder group type		
Format	Intended Audience	Timeline
Virtual or in person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each listening session will be targeted to a specific group or grouping of stakeholder types. This will allow for conversation to be held based on the stakeholder group's expertise. The recommended groupings are as follows:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ People with lived / living experience</li> <li>○ County and City leadership including law enforcement and the ABC school board</li> <li>○ Medical and behavioral health providers + health advisory boards</li> <li>○ Direct harm reduction service providers</li> <li>○ Black community</li> <li>○ Latinx community</li> <li>○ Urban Native community</li> <li>○ Family members of people who use drugs</li> <li>○ LGBTQ</li> <li>○ Leaders and members of the Pueblos and Native nations in the geography of Bernalillo County</li> <li>○ Youth educators and youth service providers</li> <li>○ Educational Institutions</li> <li>○ Migrant and Immigrant community</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June - July 2024</li> </ul>

Strategy 4: Host and facilitate a listening session with lawmakers		
Format	Intended Audience	Timeline
In person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lawmakers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May 20, 2024</li> </ul>

Strategy 5: Host a minimum of 3 townhall and/or listening sessions with Pueblos and Native nations		
Format	Intended Audience	Timeline
Virtual or in person * <i>Hybrid recommended</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaders and members of the Pueblos and Native nations in the geography of the County (e.g., Sandia Pueblo, Isleta Pueblo, Laguna Pueblo, and the To'Hajiilee Cañoncito Band of Navajos)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>June - July 2024</li> </ul>

<b>Strategy 6: Administer online survey</b>		
<b>Format</b>	<b>Intended Audience</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The survey will be open to any City or County resident. The survey takers will be asked to share information about their professional background and other identity groups, so that themes can be grouped by profession and identity groups. The option to take the survey will give residents who may not be able to attend other engagement opportunities or may not be comfortable sharing their ideas in a group setting the opportunity to provide idea.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>June - July 2024</li> </ul>

<b>Strategy 7: Collect opinions and ideas through e-mail</b>		
<b>Format</b>	<b>Intended Audience</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any resident will be allowed to send an email to the community engagement consultant with their ideas. The option to send an email will give residents who</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>June - July 2024</li> </ul>

	<p>may not be able to attend other engagement opportunities or may not be comfortable sharing their ideas in a group setting the opportunity to provide ideas.</p>	
--	--	--

# Communicating the Planning Progress

## Public Updates

Community members will give their valuable time and knowledge by participating in the community engagement process. To show appreciation of the time spent in providing ideas and opinions, and to help create a stronger relationship between the general community and City and Council leadership, the following activities are planned to continue communications with the community:

- ❖ Summarize outcomes of engagement activities in a one-page fact sheet that will include engagement methods, number of participants, a breakdown of participants' backgrounds by professional background, race and ethnicity, age, etc.
- ❖ Provide an overview of recommendations and key themes that emerged from engagement sessions.
- ❖ Share the final strategic plan approved by County and City leadership.
- ❖ Post updates on events and reports at [bernco.gov/opioidfunding](http://bernco.gov/opioidfunding)

## Presenting Final Recommendations to City and County Leadership

Vital Strategies, the independent organization facilitating the strategic planning process, will use information gathered about the communities' strengths and challenges in addressing the overdose crisis, as well as ideas and opinions from stakeholders, to develop a strategic plan for how to spend the opioid settlement funds. The strategic plan must be approved by City and County leadership. Vital Strategies will work closely with City and County leadership by doing the following:

- ❖ Share and present the findings from community engagement sessions.
- ❖ Develop and present a strategic plan developed with ideas from community engagement sessions.
- ❖ Work with City and County leadership to share the approved strategic plan with the community.



## Resources

### Overdose Crisis

- ❖ [Data Overview | Opioids | CDC](#)
- ❖ [NM-IBIS - Summary Health Indicator Report - Drug Overdose Deaths](#)
- ❖ [Microsoft Word - LFC SUD Progress Report FINAL 8.23.23 \(nmlegis.gov\)](#)

### Opioid Settlement Fund

- ❖ [Understanding Opioid Settlement Spending Plans Across States: Key Components and Approaches - NASHP](#)
- ❖ [OpioidSettlementsPDFFinal.pdf \(naccho.org\)](#)
- ❖ [New Mexico Opioid Settlement Fact Sheet \(vitalstrategies.org\)](#)
- ❖ [Exhibit-E-Final-Distributor-Settlement-Agreement-8-11-21.pdf \(attorneygeneral.gov\)](#)
- ❖ [Resolution 23-174](#)