

Community Engagement Plan for Opioid Settlement Funds Strategic Planning



Bernalillo County and City of Albuquerque | April 2024

▶ [Click Here for the Full Community Engagement Plan](#)

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.

This means that for every 100,000 people in New Mexico, an average of 50.6 people died from an overdose.

What are “Opioid settlement funds”?

These are funds resulting from lawsuits filed by state and local governments against companies whose actions contributed to the opioid overdose crisis. Opioid settlement funds are meant to address harm caused by the opioid overdose crisis. Local governments in New Mexico must spend 100% of their opioid settlement funds on programming and policies to address harms caused by the opioid overdose crisis. As of April 1st, Bernalillo County and the City of Albuquerque have received \$27,681,158.43.

Why is community engagement important?

On October 26, 2023, the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County passed mirror [Resolution 23-174](#), requiring that City and County leadership develop a strategic plan on how to spend opioid settlement dollars before more funds are spent. The resolutions require that public input is gathered on the use of the funds. Community engagement activities will seek opinions and ideas from the community and the people who have been most impacted by the overdose crisis.

Goals Of Community Engagement

- + 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.

When is the strategic planning process happening?

May – July | Townhalls and listening sessions

August | Summary of community engagement activities and key feedback themes

October | Initial strategic plan presented to City and County leadership

How will community members be included?

Engagement Strategies

STRATEGY 1: Community outreach

STRATEGY 2: Host and facilitate five townhalls, one in each of the five County Commission Districts

STRATEGY 3: Host and facilitate 7 listening sessions, each tailored to a specific stakeholder group

STRATEGY 4: Host and facilitate a listening session with City and County lawmakers

STRATEGY 5: Host at least one townhall session with Pueblos and Native nations

STRATEGY 6: Administer online survey to City and County community members

STRATEGY 7: Collect opinions and ideas through e-mail

Stakeholder Groups

- + People with Lived and Living Experience
- + Lawmakers and Other City and County Leadership
- + Medical and Behavioral Health Leaders
- + Black Community
- + Latinx Community
- + Urban Native Community
- + Family Members of People who Use Drugs
- + Public Health and Social Services Providers
- + LGBTQ Advocacy and Service Providers
- + Leaders and members of the Pueblos and Native nations in the geography of Bernalillo County
- + Youth Service Providers, and Parents of youth and young people
- + Educational institutions
- + Migrant and immigrant communities

Staying connected with the community!

We will share upcoming public engagement events and updates on a dedicated web page for the opioid settlement funds planning process: bernco.gov/opioidfunding

Who is working on the strategic plan?

The City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County have partnered with Vital Strategies to facilitate the strategic 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. Vital Strategies is working with a local community engagement organizer to conduct outreach and facilitate conversations with community members on how opioid settlement funds should be spent.