



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Administration of Opioid Restitution Funds

AUGUST 29, 2024

Executive Order Overview

The Mayor's Executive Order:

- Section 1: Establishes the Opioid Restitution Fund and outlines appropriate uses
- Section 2: Establishes a Trust fund to sustain impact for at least 15 years
- Section 3: Outlines key documents the City will publish for accountability and transparency
- Section 4: Creates the position of Executive Director of Overdose Response
- Section 5: Creates the position of Opioid Restitution Program Manager
- Section 6: Establishes a Restitution Advisory Board
- Section 7: Outlines the role of the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs



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1. The Opioid Restitution Fund

The City will establish a separate account to manage opioid restitution funds.

- Money will be spent based on recommendations from Restitution Advisory Board, reviewed by Overdose Cabinet, and approved by the Mayor
- Funds can be used for:
 - Programs, services, and supports that address substance use prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction, including the social determinants of health, and that redress or prevent other harms caused by the opioid epidemic;
 - Infrastructure required for such programs, services, and supports;
 - The oversight, planning, assessing and monitoring of programs, as well as expenses associated with managing, investing, and disbursing monies in the Fund; and
 - Evaluations of effectiveness and outcomes reporting for programs, services, supports, and resources for which monies from the Fund were disbursed.
- Both government and non-government programs can apply for funding

2. The Trust

The Fund will be used to establish a Trust that will sustain the impact of these funds for at least 15 years.

- No less than 5% of the balance from the Trust will be appropriated in the annual budget through the Ordinance of Estimates and/or through supplemental budget actions.
- Interest earned from the Trust will be used only for substance use abatement and will not be returned to the general fund, unless otherwise approved by the Board of Estimates.
- A five-person board will be established and appointed by the Mayor to oversee the Trust.



3. Key Documents

The City will publish several key documents to ensure restitution funds are used in a manner that supports the City's coordinated efforts and address the hardships of the opioid crisis:

- Comprehensive overdose reduction strategy based on evidence at least once every two years
- Substance use community needs assessment at least once every two years
- A plan for robust community engagement at least once every two years
- A transparency and accountability plan at least once every two years
- A public facing dashboard providing information on programs receiving funds at least annually
- An annual report submitted to the Mayor and City Council on funded programs



4-5. New Positions

The City will create two new positions: an Executive Director of Overdose Response and an Opioid Restitution Program Manager

Executive Director of Overdose Response

- Coordinate the citywide response to the overdose epidemic
- Work in partnership with Health Department, Police, Fire/EMS, the Department of Public Works (DPW), the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), and the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services (MOHS) among other City agencies

Opioid Restitution Program Manager

- Provide project management and coordination to support the alignment of restitution fund processes and decisions with the city-wide response
- Providing support for the meetings and functions of the Restitution Advisory Board

6. Restitution Advisory Board

The City will establish a Restitution Advisory Board to guide the use of the City's restitution funds by reviewing grant applications and making funding recommendations that will ultimately be reviewed by the Mayor's Overdose Cabinet and with final approval by the Mayor.

Membership

At least 13 voting members and no more than 17 voting members

- The Executive Director or Mayoral designee as non-voting Co-Chair;
- The Health Commissioner or designee as non-voting Co-Chair;
- The Fire Chief or designee as a non-voting member;
- The CEO of the local behavioral health authority;
- Two members of the Baltimore City Council including:
 - The Chair of the Baltimore City Council's Health, Environment, and Technology Committee or the Chair of any future committee responsible for the oversight of the City's public health apparatus and;
 - A member of the City Council nominated by the City Council President and agreed upon by the Mayor, with special consideration to members representing council districts most impacted by the overdose crisis or members with public health expertise;
- A designee from the Maryland Department of Health or a representative from the state's Overdose Response Advisory Council as appointed by the Governor;
- A designee from a Baltimore-based harm reduction organization;
- A practicing licensed addiction medicine specialist working in Baltimore City;
- A practicing licensed social worker working in Baltimore City;
- A public health practitioner or public health expert from a university in Baltimore City;
- A peer recovery specialist working in Baltimore City;
- At least 4 Baltimore City residents with lived/or living experience with substance use.

Board Details

- Will meet monthly for first nine months, and then at least quarterly
- Non city-employees will be compensated \$15,000 per year for membership
- Non city-employees will serve 1 year terms with the opportunity to re-apply to serve up to 3 years consecutively



7. Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs

The Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs will:

- Coordinate and manage Notices of Funding Availability (NOFA)
- Develop grant agreements with funded organizations and provide grant monitoring and oversight to funded organizations in partnership with the Executive Director
- Publish annual reports on spending and maintain the public facing dashboard that provides information on programs receiving funds

Next Steps

Establish Governance and Finance Structure for Restitution Funds

Mayor Scott Announces Executive Order: Administration of Funds from Restitution Funds

Hire Executive Director of Overdose Response and Opioid Restitution Program Manager

Establish Restitution Advisory Board

Conduct Community Engagement and Needs Assessment

Publish City-wide Overdose Response Plan

Set Annual Funding Priorities

Release Notice of Funding Availability

Select Programs to Fund

Distribute Funds for FY26

