

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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December 12, 2025

The Honorable Peggy Rotundo, Chair
The Honorable Drew Gattine, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
5 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

The Honorable Henry Ingwersen, Chair
The Honorable Michele Meyer, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Opioid Litigation Settlements and the Maine Recovery Fund

Greetings, Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, esteemed members of the Joint Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Joint Committee on Health and Human Services:

This letter reports on the status of settlement funds in the Maine Recovery Fund for statewide opioid abatement.

As you know, in 2022 I signed a Memorandum of Understanding (the "MOU") with certain counties, cities, and towns which had filed lawsuits against manufacturers and distributors of opioid pain medications. The MOU allocates within Maine settlement funds from various opioids-related investigations and litigation, with 50% of settlement funds going to the Maine Recovery Fund, 20% to the Attorney General, and 30% to 39 counties, cities, and towns, all for spending to abate the opioid crisis in Maine. The MOU, along with legislation passed by the 130th Legislature (L.D. 1722), created the Maine Recovery Fund and established the Maine Recovery Council "to direct the disbursement of recovery funds for recovery purposes on a statewide basis" for certain opioid abatement uses. The Senate President and the House Speaker each have the authority to appoint three members of the Council, resulting in six of the fifteen members having been appointed by the Legislature.

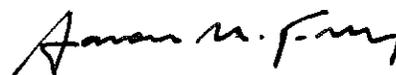
Section IV(E) of the MOU provides that that “[t]he Attorney General shall report at least annually on or before the 2nd Friday in December” to your committees and the report “must summarize the activity in any funds or accounts directly related to this section”.¹

Regarding the Recovery Fund, as of November 30, 2025, it had a balance of \$30,604,715.65 – this includes over \$6.6 million received by the Fund in 2025. An overview of the settlement funds allocated in Maine, including to the Recovery Fund, may be found on my office’s website, <https://www.maine.gov/ag/opioids/settlement-payments.html>.

The Council continues to make progress towards distributing these funds. Throughout 2025, the Council’s focus has been on putting contracts in place for its grant awards, and to that end, my office was able to pay out, on the Council’s behalf, to 46 projects statewide, \$12,735,489.52. These payments funded work in every county in Maine and support projects in all four areas of opioid abatement: harm reduction, treatment, prevention, and recovery support. With funding from my office, the Council is working with the MOSS Center, a project of the Cutler Institute at the University of Southern Maine’s Muskie School, on a publicly available dashboard of information about the Council’s grants. In the meantime, for more information about these grants I encourage you to contact the Recovery Council directly.

Also during 2025, new members joined the Council, its staff transitioned through turnover and restructuring, it posted an RFP for additional vendor support for contract management and reporting, is discussing a next round of grant-making, and recently kicked off a working group to advise the Council about its obligation to provide grants targeting Maine’s school administrative units. Finally, this past year my office provided substantial administrative support to the Council, particularly to support its contracting efforts. I appreciate the role my team plays in facilitating the delivery of these settlement funds on behalf of the Council.

Sincerely,



Aaron M. Frey
Attorney General

AMF/rjs

¹ Prior reports, videos of the Council’s meetings, and substantial information about its work may be found on the Council’s website, hosted by the Attorney General’s Office at: <https://www.maine.gov/ag/recovery-council/>.