

SETTING UP A FRAMEWORK FOR DEDICATING OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IMPACTED BY PERINATAL SUBSTANCE USE

In the coming months and years, Colorado will begin to receive funds from settlements and court rulings resulting from numerous lawsuits against drug companies, distributors and pharmacies over their role in the opioid crisis. It's money that can — and should — be channeled to programs and services that equitably serve all families through prevention and reduction of substance use during pregnancy and provide multi-generational support for families to thrive.

Investing in tailored substance use disorder treatment and recovery services for families leads to better outcomes, cost savings and stronger communities. While pregnancy and motherhood can be a time of increased motivation for substance use disorder treatment and recovery, an absence of tailored services creates a gap between need and access.

Substance use disorder treatment that supports the family as a unit has **proven to be effective for maintaining maternal recovery and child well-being**. Residential treatment programs serving women and children produced **nearly \$4 in savings for every \$1 invested** through reductions in child welfare costs, crime, foster care and low birth weight babies.

The **Colorado Substance Exposed Newborns Steering Committee** was established in 2008 and is a subcommittee of the **Colorado Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force**.

In 2019, a **Family Advisory Board** to this steering committee formed in order to **elevate the voices of families who have experienced, directly or indirectly, the impacts of substance use during pregnancy**.

Below are **jointly developed recommendations** for how opioid settlement funds could equitably serve all families through prevention and reduction of substance use during pregnancy and provide multi-generational support for families to thrive, with a focus on:

- Building Colorado's statewide capacity to align efforts,
- Applying lessons from data, and
- Recognizing and responding to emerging needs.

ACROSS ALL INVESTMENTS

- Infuse Decision Making with Family Voice Experiences and Leadership

Address Rural Needs with a Cultural Lens, Especially

- Through Leveraging Needs Assessments and Gap Analyses Related to Rural Services and Treatment Resources

- Ensure Data-informed Strategic Planning, Activity Engagement and Impact

Leverage and Strengthening Systems for

- Longitudinal Data Regarding Impact and Opportunities Related to Perinatal Substance Use

Peer-led Support Services, Especially Tailored for Pregnant and Parenting People

Specific investments could include:

- Peer Navigators
- Peer Recovery Support Networks
- Doula Peer Supports

Family-based Treatment, Recovery and Housing Support

Specific investments could include:

- Family-centered Treatment Programs
- Recovery Residences Accepting Children
- Family-based Recovery Housing
- Sober Stable Housing Programs
- Dyad/family-Based Foster Care

JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE AND LOCAL INVESTMENTS TO BEST SUPPORT THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN, PREGNANT AND PARENTING PEOPLE

Timely, Coordinated Access to Support Services

Specific investments could include:

- Plans of Safe Care Coordination Infrastructure
- Dyad-focused Services Accessed through Hospitals

Child Care Assistance for Recovery Services

Specific investments could include:

- Co-located Child Care Services
- Child Care Navigation Support

Capacity Building for Integrated Maternal and Behavioral Health Care

Specific investments could include:

- MAT & Perinatal Provider Fellowship
- Perinatal MAT Prescriber Education & Technical Assistance
- Perinatal SUD Provider Resource Network