

Opioid Abatement Funds to Advance Hepatitis C Elimination

WHY IS HEPATITIS C ELIMINATION IMPORTANT?

Injection drug use is a risk factor for hepatitis C. However, people who need hepatitis C testing and/or cure are often unable to access care. **Hepatitis C treatment has a 95% cure rate and has been shown to increase retention** in Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) programs.



WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO COUNTIES?

Investing in Hepatitis C Elimination can:

- **Prevent costly outbreaks** (such as HIV clusters like those in rural Indiana and West Virginia)
- **Reduce long-term health care costs** related to untreated infections in Jails, Hospitals, etc.
- **Save lives and improve community health and productivity**

HOW CAN COUNTIES USE OPIOID ABATEMENT FUNDS FOR HEPATITIS C ELIMINATION?

1. Scale Up Hepatitis C Testing

Fund community-based testing for hepatitis C and other infectious diseases in Syringe Services Programs (SSPs), Jails, Drug Courts, Substance Use Treatment programs, and other settings

2. Expand Treatment Access to Cure Hepatitis C

Support Local Health Departments, SSPs, Jails, and Clinics to provide low barrier hepatitis C treatment

3. Provide Wrap-Around Support Services

Cover cost of Peer Supports, transportation assistance, housing navigation, medication storage, and other support services that can help with treatment linkage and adherence

Resources

- [Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission](#)
- [Kentucky Association of Counties](#)
- [National Opioid Settlements](#)
- [Kentucky Department for Public Health Viral Hepatitis Program](#)

Exhibit E of the [2023 Commission Teva Global Opioid Settlement Agreement](#) States that opioid abatement funds can be used for

“Expanding access to testing and treatment for infectious diseases such as...Hepatitis C resulting from intravenous opioid use.”

HOW CAN COUNTIES GET STARTED?

1. **Allocate a portion of Opioid Abatement Funds** towards hepatitis C testing, cure, and wrap-around care
2. **Partner with Local Health Departments, Clinics, and Jails** to launch or scale services



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Hepatitis C Elimination can

- Save money
- Save lives
- Make communities safer

Exhibit E of the 2023 Commission Teva Global Opioid Settlement Agreement states that Opioid Abatement Funds can be used for expanding access to Hepatitis C testing and cure.

For more information contact the
Viral Hepatitis Program at VHP@ky.gov



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Grebely, J. et al (2019). Global, regional, and country-level estimates of hepatitis C infection among people who have recently injected drugs. *Addiction* (Abingdon, England), 114(1), 150–166. | Severe, B. et al (2020). Co-located hepatitis C virus infection treatment within an opioid treatment program promotes opioid agonist treatment retention. *Drug and alcohol dependence*, 213, 108-116. | Spaulding, A. C. et al (2023). Estimates of Hepatitis C Seroprevalence and Viremia in State Prison Populations in the United States. *The Journal of infectious diseases*, 228(Suppl 3), S160–S167.