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## Proposed Guiding Principles for Opioid Settlement Spending

### 1. **Spend money to save lives.**

Expand needed programs rather than replace existing spending.

- a. Supplement rather than supplant existing funds
- b. Understand how current federal dollars are being spent
- c. Establish acceptable uses of dollars
- d. Encourage innovation, fill gaps, and fix shortcomings of existing system

### 2. **Use evidence to guide spending.**

At this point in the opioid epidemic, researchers and clinicians have built a substantial body of evidence demonstrating what works and what does not.

- a. Direct funds to programs supported by evidence
- b. Provide technical assistance so there is a clear understanding about practices
- c. Ask subject matter experts to review and rate grant applications

### 3. **Invest in youth prevention.**

Funds should support children, youth, and families by making long-term investments in effective programs and strategies for community change.

- a. 49% of children enter foster care as a result of parental substance abuse (Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, 2021).
- b. Target populations include foster care/kinship care and transition age youth.

### 4. **Focus on underserved and vulnerable populations.**

Direct significant funds to communities most affected and now experiencing substantial increases in overdoses.

- a. Support diversion from arrest and incarceration
- b. Involve community members in solutions
- c. Invest in diverse communities

### 5. **Develop a fair and transparent process for deciding where to spend the funding.**

This process should be guided by public health leaders with the active engagement of individuals and families with lived experience, clinicians, as well as other key groups.

- a. Receive input from groups that touch different parts of the epidemic to develop the plan
- b. Ensure that there is representation that reflects the diversity of affected communities when allocating funds

