

Success Stories Across the Planning Cycle

Connecticut municipalities are using opioid settlement funds to move from planning to action. These examples show how towns at different stages are making a difference in their communities.

Clarify Leaders and Partners New Britain

New Britain uses the NB Recovers structure, including an Opioid Task Force and recovery roundtables, the Local Prevention Council, a CAN homeless work group, and an executive committee that approves the action and strategic plan.



Settlement funds supported an EMS paramedic serving in a recovery-navigation role, Parent Cafés, and the BEE Responsible prevention program, which reached over 800 fifth-grade students and 800 sixth-grade students.

Understand the Local Picture Griswold

Griswold PRIDE and the Community Action Team used HIDTA ODMAP data to identify overdose trends and hot spots, then used the findings to guide targeted strategies.



Settlement funds supported weekly substance use health services through the local health district, recovery navigation and support, transportation and housing assistance, and EMS naloxone leave-behind kits.

Inventory Existing Resources Wallingford

Wallingford built on existing municipal and community assets by coordinating its Health Department, Youth and Social Services Department, and the Coalition for a Better Wallingford.



Settlement funds expanded naloxone availability in schools and community settings, supported the CredibleMind BH360 behavioral-health platform, hired a prevention-focused social worker, and expanded prevention education.

Identify Gaps and Needs Milford

Milford's Collaborative on Opioid and Overdose Response (COOR) reviewed service gaps and directed settlement funds to Bridges Healthcare and the Milford Prevention Council with specific deliverables.



Funds supported youth prevention, prescriber education, naloxone access, and the Mobile Addiction Treatment Team (MATT) van.

Set Priorities and Choose Actions Naugatuck

Naugatuck Police, Naugatuck Youth Services, and the YMCA assessed current activities and service gaps, then selected a Recovery Outreach Specialist as a priority.



Settlement funds supported a certified recovery coach who provided community naloxone training, SMART Recovery, and case management. In the first year, 17 residents received case management and 12 were reported as still in long-term recovery as of FY26.

Implementation and Accountability Waterbury

Waterbury sustained three Overdose Response Technicians and a data analyst, strengthened epidemiology capacity, and used Connecticut DPH, emergency department, police, and EMS data to guide decisions.



The town also used the Unite Us referral platform to track whether referrals were completed.

Overdose Response Technicians responded to more than 200 overdose calls and facilitated more than 50 outreach and training events.

More Success Stories Across the Planning Cycle

These are additional Connecticut municipal examples showing how opioid settlement funds have supported practical action across different steps in the planning cycle.

Clarify Leaders and Partners Manchester

- Formed an Opioid Settlement Funds working group that met monthly and brought together organizations and community members with expertise in prevention, mitigation, recovery, and related services.
- In FY24, the town focused on youth-related prevention, mitigation, recovery, and other services.



What this shows: The town created a standing group that brought the right people together to plan meaningful use of settlement funds.

Understand the Local Picture Guilford

- Used coalition planning and review of needs-assessment information to guide its work.
- Focused on the broader community and used funds for prevention events, prevention education, and naloxone kit distribution.



What this shows: Community-wide information helped shape practical prevention and education activities.

Inventory Existing Resources Ansonia

- Discussed options with first responder department heads.
- Used funds to purchase Narcan for first responders and provide training for residents.
- Public awareness increased.



What this shows: The city built on existing first-responder capacity and community education to strengthen available resources.

Identify Gaps and Needs Berlin

- Held cross-functional meetings involving Social Services, the Board of Education, Police, and the Central CT Health District to brainstorm needs and ideas.
- Used funds for educational materials and sessions for at-risk groups.



What this shows: Cross-department discussion helped surface local needs and guide action for priority populations.

Set Priorities and Choose Actions Barkhamsted

- Pooled funds regionally through the Northwest Hills Council of Governments Regional Opioid Response Fund.
- A multisector committee met quarterly to identify, develop, and implement evidence-based initiatives tailored to small rural communities.
- Funds supported leave-behind kits for ambulance crews and supplies for regional outreach.



What this shows: The town chose a regional strategy that fit local capacity and focused funds on practical high-impact actions.

Implementation and Accountability Ashford

- Used funds for a service for parents, teachers, and others who work with adolescents to help them better understand the teen environment and spot possible signs of substance use.
- Parents, teachers, and others were educated to help identify signs of substance abuse.



What this shows: The town turned funding into a concrete educational activity with a clear audience and visible result.