



# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

TO: Franklin County Town Administrators  
FROM: Phoebe Walker, Director of Community Health  
DATE: 2-26-24  
RE: Opioid Settlement Options for Annual Town Meeting

Dear Town Administrators,

As you know, the FRCOG has been working with local health departments and boards of health to gather input from those with lived experience with opioid use disorder, and to research rural-appropriate expenditures that meet local needs and the [guidance on allowable expenses](#). We are working to support your boards of health to identify regional and sub-regional projects that make the best use of the funds, so that they can bring that information to the Town.

While that work is ongoing, this memo summarizes the **options for handling opioid settlement funds at Town Meeting**, after the recent issuance of new guidance in the [Division of Local Services Bulletin 2023-7](#), based on an amendment to Chapter 44, Section 53.

1. For any Town that created an Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, you have two options:
  - a. Keep it as is, requiring annual ATM vote on expenditures.
  - b. Spend it out in the FY25 budget through allocation at ATM, and then the stabilization fund will close itself once empty.
  
2. If your funds are not in a Stabilization Account (or once the one you have has been emptied and closed):
  - a. You may create a Special Purpose Reserve Fund, which can be spent for the purposes agreed upon by the Town, without further appropriation at Town Meeting, in accordance with the state guidance on allowable expenses. This fund will not close out to Free Cash at the end of each year.
  - b. You may leave them in Free Cash and expend them at the direction of the CEO of the Town for the purposes agreed upon by the Town, in accordance with the state guidance on allowable expenses. Unspent funds will close out to general free cash at the end of the year.

Finally, a reminder that FRCOG also maintains a web page of up to date resources and guidance from the state and local events and resources at: <https://frcog.org/opioid-settlement-updates/>

Feel free to reach out with any questions! I am at x102 here at the FRCOG.