

Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council

In 2019, Governor Tim Walz signed the Opiate Epidemic Response bill into law, which raises funds from prescribers, drug manufacturers and distributors to fight the opioid crisis, while creating the Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council to oversee the funding.

The Opiate Epidemic Response Fund

The Opiate Epidemic Response law is expected to raise \$20 million annually through fees and for prescribers, drug manufacturers and distributors. The fees collected will go into an opiate epidemic response account established in the state government special revenue fund. This means there will be sustainable funding to fight the opioid epidemic and therefore more sustainable treatment and recovery services across the state.

The purpose of the council

The Opiate Epidemic Response bill establishes the Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council to develop and implement a comprehensive and effective statewide effort to address the opioid addiction and overdose epidemic in Minnesota.

The council will:

- Review of local, state, and federal initiatives and activities related to education, prevention, treatment and services for individuals and families experiencing and affected by opioid use disorder
- Establish priorities to address the state's opioid epidemic, for the purpose of recommending initiatives to fund
- Recommend to the commissioner of human services specific projects and initiatives to be funded
- Ensure that available funding is allocated to align with other state and federal funding to achieve the greatest impact and ensure a coordinated state effort
- Consult with the commissioners of human services, health, and management and budget to develop measurable outcomes to determine the effectiveness of funds allocated
- Develop recommendations for an administrative and organizational framework for the allocation, on a sustainable and ongoing basis, of any money collected from the Opiate Epidemic Response.

Council membership

The council will be made up of legislators from both bodies, tribal nations, state agency representatives, providers, advocates, and individuals personally impacted by the opioid crisis, as well as representation from law enforcement, social service agencies, and the judicial branch.

A full list of council seats can be found at the [Minnesota Secretary of State's office](#).

The commissioner of human services will ensure that the council will include geographic, racial, and gender diversity, and that at least one-half of council members appointed by the commissioner reside outside of the seven-county metropolitan area.

Opioids in Minnesota

- Opioid addiction is devastating families and communities in Minnesota. Opioids account for more overdoses than any other drug. In 2018, 331 Minnesotans died from opioid overdose.
- More children are in out-of-home care across Minnesota. Almost 40,000 children were involved in screened-in child protection reports in 2017, up from 26,000 in 2014. Drug abuse by parents is the most common primary reason for children being placed out of their homes.
- It can take 25 days or longer for a person with substance use disorder to get into treatment. Most Minnesotans who enter treatment complete it and show considerable improvement.
- American Indians are experiencing the opioid epidemic more severely than other Minnesotans. Native American Minnesotans are five times more likely to die from a drug overdose than white Minnesotans. Conventional behavioral health interventions have not been as effective for American Indians as for other groups.

