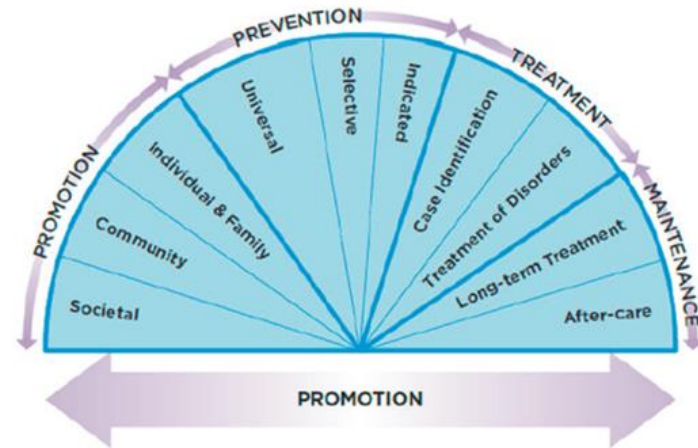


Taking Action and Investing Across the Continuum of Care

Milwaukee's response to the Substance Use Syndemic

The Milwaukee community continues to experience decreased life expectancy as a result of the substance use **syndemic**, or synergistic epidemic. Intuitively, both wellness and illness are the result of myriad factors. A syndemic is a conceptual framework for understanding this intuitive relationship; it is the interconnectedness of health outcomes with social, economic, environmental, structural and political contexts. Given the complex nature of substance use incidence, morbidity and mortality, leaders recognize that a broad-based response framework such as the **Continuum of Care (COC)** is needed.

The four COC strategies will be the backbone of all strategies and investments using the City of Milwaukee opioid settlement funds.



The Milwaukee Continuum of Care Landscape Analysis

Below, **Tables 1-4** summarize a landscape analysis and enumerate **example activities** related to the substance use syndemic. While not exhaustive, the tables do identify some of the existing many activities and programs and also opportunities to pursue based on evidence and practice within each of the four COC domains.

Examples of specific funding projects, programs, and activities are listed in their aligned COC domain. Many are excluded for brevity. The tables capture involvement across multiple levels of government and social sectors; refer to the legend. A modifiable and “living” version of this exists in a database tool.

Primary contributors and implementers differ depending on the strategy and domain. For example, while indicated prevention is universally in scope there are important differences depending on agency alignment (governmental/non-governmental, public health, public safety, healthcare sector, or community organizations, etc.).

The City of Milwaukee will aim to maximize its impact by directing its funds towards evidence-informed practices and services in order to attain meaningful return on investment. While **activities in health promotion and prevention are most closely aligned with city agency scope and capacity**, the city will engage across the COC, including through partnerships and regranting to assure coverage across the spectrum.

Legend

H= MHD

F/S= Milwaukee Fire Department/ Public Safety

M = Milwaukee County government, including MC's OSF

W= Wisconsin State government, including DHS' OSF

C= Community Based Organizations, Human Services, Coalitions

●= Primary role

○= Supporting role

Table 1: Spending to save Lives with Health Promotion

Strategy	Domain	Example Activities: Spending to Save Lives	H	F/S	M	W	C
Health Promotion	Societal	Public education campaigns	● ○ ○	○ ○ ○			● ○ ○
		Coalitions & collective impact	○	○			●
		Policy, Systems & Environmental Change	○ ● ●	○	● ●	● ●	○
	Community	Outreach & education	● ● ○	○ ○ ○	○		● ○ ○
		Infrastructure for Substance Use Remediation	● ○ ● ● ●	○ ○ ○ ○	○	● ○ ○	○ ○ ○ ○
		Public Health Data Strategy	● ● ● ● ● ●	○ ○ ○ ○	○	● ○ ●	○ ○ ○ ○
		Early preventive interventions	● ● ○ ○ ○ ○		○	○ ○ ○	○ ● ○ ○ ●

Table 2: Spending to Save Lives with Substance Use Prevention

Strategy	Domain	Example Activities: Spending to Save Lives	H	F/S	M	W	C	
Prevention	Universal Prevention (Primary Prevention)	Early preventive interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prevent or reduce disruptive behavior, depression, negative coping tactics, improve self-esteem and self-control ● Supporting funding and implementation of early education – elementary school ages ● Implement social-emotional learning programs addressing self-management, social skills, and information and resistance skills - adolescent ages ○ Support delivery of out-of-school programs developing interpersonal skills and other protective factors 	○				
		Integrate across health promotion spectrum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expand access to all prevention (e.g., Hepatitis B Vaccine) ● SCALES Neighborhood Nursing program implementation (outreach nursing, community care connections) ● Implement evidence-based strategies to reduce stigma around substance use that can impede help seeking behaviors and/or engagement in harm reduction practices ○ Implement housing first policies 	●				●
	Selective Prevention	Needs-based harm reduction saturation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participate in WI DHS Naloxone Direct Program, and Drug Checking Program ● Leverage city and county data to reach drug-impacted groups and individuals with harm reduction and access to services ● Refine populations reached by WI DHS DCTS Naloxone Direct Program and Drug Checking resources ● Pro-active harm reduction resource distribution, naloxone saturation strategies 	●	○			○
		Evidence-Based Positive Youth Development and Prevention Strategies, Social-, Interpersonal-, and Emotional Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WI DCF Brighter Futures Initiatives Milwaukee programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Advocates Milwaukee Brighter Futures Initiative (MBFI) (Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Milwaukee, Milwaukee Christian Center, Neu-Life Community Development, Pathfinders, PEARLS for Teen Girls, The Parenting Network, United Community Center) ○ Diverse & Resilient ○ Employ Milwaukee + Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee ○ La Causa Crisis Nursery & Respite Center ○ Running Rebels & Express Yourself Milwaukee 			○	●	●
	Indicated Prevention	Those meeting specific risk factors (e.g., people who previously experienced non-fatal overdose, people who engage in certain health behaviors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expand Overdose Education & Naloxone Distribution (OEND) to people with designated risk factors, including people who use drugs (PWUD), their family and immediate social networks ● Assure harm reduction principles are informing programs and resources are widely available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MFD - Milwaukee Overdose Response Initiative (MORI) ○ MHD - Public Health Community Outreach and Neighborhood Nursing ● Milwaukee Drug Rapid Outreach Program (MDROP) – near real time drug checking info ● Milwaukee Community Collective - outreach; connections to resources & HR supplies ● Material support and services for students exposed to trauma (DPI, school districts/systems) ● Provision of housing first services as harm reduction strategy (Milw Co Housing Division, Housing Intervention Program) 	●	○	○	○	●

Table 3: Spending to Save Lives with Treatment Services and Supports

Strategy	Domain	Example Activities: Spending to Save Lives	H	F/S	M	W	C
Treatment	Case identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connecting to services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timely identification of non-fatal overdose cases through 911-based systems. Connect non-fatal overdose survivors to resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human/social services naloxone “leave behind program” EMS/MIH/MORI Contact attempts (clients, family/friends) Provide screening and referrals to services (e.g., healthcare, substance use treatment) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age, culturally, linguistically appropriate Improve access to treatment through navigation and closed loop referral processes Connect community members to groups that substance involved families with managing the stress, instability, crises, trauma, Engage in specialized outreach based on known risk and protective factors 	○	●	●	○	
			○	●	●	○	●
			○	○	●	○	○
			○	○		○	●
			●	●			●
			○		○		○
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Supportive Housing Models, and Housing First Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support housing as health policies and practices Establish role for housing "navigators" Assure a range of housing options support goals and needs of people in recovery, including permanent supportive housing for eligible individuals and families, sober living homes, recovery residences, and transitional housing 	○	○	○	●	○
		○	○	●		●	
		○	○	●	○		
	Implement spectrum of diversion practices, alternative responses & restorative options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SIM - identification of opportunities and resources at each “intercept” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SIM 0 - Community Services SIM 1- Law Enforcement SIM 2- Initial detention & court hearings SIM 3 - Jails & Courts, specialty courts, dispositional court SIM 4 – Reentry SIM 5 - Community Corrections 	<i>See full Sequential Intercept Map for Milwaukee</i>				
Treatment for Known Disorders	Resources & services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with wide array of public health and service providers Integrate efforts with health systems and Milwaukee County, e.g., DHHS service areas (BHS, CARS) Assure accessible, available, and convenient services for individuals, families and friends 	●	●	●	●	●
		○	○	○	○	○	
	Integrated care continuum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widen accessibility and acceptability of MOUD (practice-oriented) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in the field, at ED-discharge (critical point of leverage), pharmacy-based MOUD programs, mobile OTPs, criminal-legal system Monitor, evaluate, and improve substance use program engagement, retention, and results (outputs, outcomes, and impact) Implement treatment-related interventions across the criminal/legal system as recommended at each intercept in the “Sequential Intercept Model” 	○	○		●	○
		●	○	●	○	○	
		●	●	●	●	●	

Table 4: Spending to Save Lives through Recovery Supports

Strategy	Domain	Example Activities: Spending to Save Lives	H	F/S	M	W	C	
Maintenance	Long-term Treatment	Continuing care and self-management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up and recovery program retention, outputs, outcomes, and impact Prevent relapse and recurrence 	● ○	○ ○	● ●	● ●	● ●
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and practice for coping behaviors and skills 	○	○	●	●	●
	After Care	Substance Use Survivorship and recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reach drug-impacted individuals and strengthen opioid-involved families via a family support program Implement evidence-based home visiting to mitigate exposure/experience of trauma/ ACEs support long-term recovery via outreach, safe environments and overall community wellness and safety Connections and services for those who have lost someone to substance use Connections and services such as whole family support groups, grief for people and social networks (communities) whose loved ones use substances Grief support for survivors of substance use harms or loss (e.g., incarceration, fatality) 	● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○	○ ● ● ○ ○ ○	○ ○ ● ○ ○ ○	○ ● ● ● ● ●