

Opioid Settlement Fund Proposal

December 8, 2025



Columbia County
Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

BACKGROUND

The Opioid Settlement Fund (OSF) is the result of numerous legal actions related to the opioid epidemic, primarily targeting pharmaceutical companies and distributors for their role in the opioid crisis. In 2022 alone, the Oregon Department of Justice (ODOJ) signed on to eight multi-state agreements with companies that either distributed, produced, or sold opioids. Oregon is expected to receive over \$600 million from these settlements, with 55% of this directed to counties to fund opioid-related treatment, recovery, and prevention services.

Columbia County has or will receive OSF payments from at least 13 different settlements, totaling over \$4 million between 2022 and 2038. Over \$1.3 million funds has been received by the county to date; once received, funds must be spent within 5 years.

[Exhibit E](#) of these settlements identifies allowable uses of funds, generally aimed at reducing the morbidity and mortality impacts of substance use disorder through prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction activities, services, and programs.

PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2022, CCPH contracted with Comagine Health to conduct a substance use service assessment in Columbia County. This assessment builds off of OHSU and PSU's Oregon Substance Use Disorder Services Inventory and Gap Analysis, and engaged providers, community members, and those in recovery while referencing Exhibit E as a framework.

Identified Priority Areas:
Substance Use Prevention
Linkage to Treatment
Treatment
Recovery
Harm Reduction

Using this report as a guide, discussions were held with external and internal partners from August 2023 to February 2024 to gather ideas for a community-wide approach and develop the details of this proposal. Key stakeholders were engaged again in October and November 2025 to confirm the continued need for and interest in the proposed activities.

PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Columbia County Public Health (CCPH) is requesting to serve as the fiscal and facilitation coordinator to support the Columbia County Board of Commissioners in utilizing Columbia County's OSF per recommended guidelines and best practices in reducing opioid-related harms and to address root causes of substance use disorder.

CCPH is well-equipped to successfully manage public health-related programs, with a strong history of collaboration with community partners and other public agencies and experience interpreting and following guidelines and regulatory standards. CCPH understands how the environments where people live, learn, work, play, and age affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes-- commonly referred to as social determinants of health. With an emphasis on the impact of these social determinants of health, CCPH will draw from collective experience managing grants and multi-stakeholder engagements to ensure the opioid settlement initiatives in Columbia County are well supported, outcome-oriented, cohesive, and participatory.

In this capacity, CCPH will:

- Collaborate with the Columbia County Sheriff's Office and other partners to identify and address gaps in the availability of health-related resources for individuals at the Jail.
- Develop and administer a mini-grants process, open to community partners actively addressing various issues related to substance use in the county to build, improve, or sustain programming.
- Support the Columbia County Medical Examiner's Division in bolstering its capacity to identify and respond to drug-related fatalities.
- Conduct outreach, education, and resource distribution to community members and partner organizations focused on substance use-related health outcomes.
- Co-facilitate the Columbia County Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee (LADPC), in partnership with Columbia Community Mental Health (CCMH), to provide input and recommendations on substance use-related activities and priorities.
- Assess the community impact of initiatives and evolving funding needs related to substance use in Columbia County, building off of the 2022 Columbia County Substance Use Services Assessment.

To support this work, CCPH will employ up to two limited-duration positions. Additionally, an existing 0.5 FTE position at the Jail will be increased to 1.0 FTE.

PROPOSAL DETAILS

Total request: \$1,035,000 | Funding period: January 2026 - December 2027

ELEMENT 1: JAIL HEALTH SERVICES AND SUPPORT

Partners including Columbia County Legal Counsel, Columbia Community Mental Health (CCMH), Oregon Health Science University (OHSU), and Columbia County Sheriff's Office will work together to improve health services within the jail, such as increased mental and behavioral health resources, improved continuity of care, discharge planning, crisis response, and SUD treatment.

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

January 2026 - December 2027, with option for extension or renewal

ESTIMATED BUDGET

\$270,000 Salary + Fringe
\$300,000 Supplies for use at/with CC Jail
TOTAL: \$570,000

ELEMENT 2: SUBSTANCE USE MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

CCPH will develop and oversee administrative aspects of a mini-grant program, providing limited duration funding to community organizations and projects related to substance use-related priorities, including prevention, treatment, and recovery. Administrative include application development, proposal review, grant award and communications, and program evaluation.

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

- March 2026: Application opens
- June 2026: Awards made
- July 2026 - Dec 2027: Project period

ESTIMATED BUDGET

\$42,000 Salary + Fringe
\$150,000 Mini-grants
TOTAL: \$192,000

ELEMENT 3: SUPPORT FOR MEDICAL EXAMINER'S DIVISION

To support their internal capacity to identify and respond to drug related deaths and investigations, funding will be provided to the Columbia County Medical Examiner's Division for equipment, forensic services, and staff training.

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

January 2026 - December 2027

ESTIMATED BUDGET

\$11,000 Supplies, services, and training
TOTAL: \$11,000

PROPOSAL DETAILS

ELEMENT 4: OUTREACH, EDUCATION, & RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION

As an expansion of its existing drug prevention outreach program, CCPH will be present at community events to provide education and distribute supplies aimed at preventing or reducing the negative impacts of substance use, including Narcan, medication storage devices, and safe firearm storage supplies. Supplies and materials will also be shared with community partners to distribute.

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

January 2026 – December 2027,
with option for extension/renewal

ESTIMATED BUDGET

\$10,500 Salary + Fringe
\$15,000 Supplies/materials; event expenses
TOTAL: \$25,500

ELEMENT 5: COLUMBIA COUNTY LADPC

The Columbia County Local Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission serves as an advisory body, comprised of area service providers, clients, and community members who provide valuable perspectives on substance use prevention and response activities. CCPH will assist CCMH in convening and supporting this group and provide resources to ensure it's success and sustainability.

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

January 2026 – December 2027,
with option for extension/renewal

ESTIMATED BUDGET

\$10,500 Salary + Fringe
\$1,000 LADPC supplies/materials
TOTAL: \$11,500

ELEMENT 6: EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

Throughout the duration of OSF activities, CCPH will conduct regular evaluation of activities and substance use-related outcomes, to determine the efficacy of programs and identify new opportunities for engagement.

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

January 2026 – December 2027,
with option for extension/renewal

ESTIMATED BUDGET

\$88,000 Salary + Fringe
\$2,000 Supplies/materials
TOTAL: \$90,000

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION FEE (15%, estimated): \$135,000

Final amount pending counsel review of process and eligibility