



Maryland's Office of Overdose Response

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Emily Keller, Special Secretary of Overdose Response

February 19, 2025

The Honorable William C. Smith Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 942 - Correctional Services - Medication-Assisted Treatment Funding

Dear Chair Smith:

Maryland's Office of Overdose Response (MOOR) respectfully submits this letter of information for Senate Bill (SB) 942, which would require the Maryland Department of Health to provide funding to counties for medication-assisted treatment programs and would require counties to report on related programming. Additionally, the bill would authorize the use of Opioid Restitution Funds (ORF) to be used for medication-assisted treatment programs.

The opioid settlement funds present a unique opportunity to enhance Maryland's overdose response efforts, but special attention must be paid to State Finance and Procurement Article 7-331 (i), which states that "money expended from the Fund for the programs and services described under subsection (f) of this section is supplemental to and is not intended to take the place of funding that otherwise would be appropriated for the programs and services".¹ Maryland currently offers multiple grant opportunities for local detention centers to fund medication-assisted treatment programs, including grants from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention & Policy (GOCPP), the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), and MOOR. Accessing these grant opportunities first would help ensure that the ORF is able to fund multiple priority areas identified by Maryland's Opioid Restitution Fund Advisory Council.

MOOR recognizes that funding opioid use disorder assessment and treatment has been challenging. Expanding access to medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) is a vital component of the state's overdose response efforts and an allowable use under the settlements.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Benjamin Fraifeld, Associate Director for Policy & Advocacy at MOOR, 443-346-3013.

Sincerely,

¹ <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=gsf§ion=7-331&enactments=false>

Emily Keller
Special Secretary of Overdose Response
