Lynn Fitch
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 2, 2026

The Honorable Tate Reeves
Governor
550 High Street, 19th Floor
Walter Sillers Building
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

The Honorable Delbert Hosemann
Lieutenant Governor
Capitol Room 317
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

The Honorable Jason White
Speaker of the House
Capitol Room 306
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

The Honorable Briggs Hopson
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
Capitol Room 214-B
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

The Honorable John Read
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
Capitol Room 201-C
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

The Honorable Brice Wiggins
Chair, Division A Senate Judiciary Committee
Capitol Room 409
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

The Honorable Joey Hood
Chair, House Judiciary A Committee
Capitol Room 202
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

Director Lee Anne Robinson
Legislative Budget Office
E. T. Woolfolk Office Building
501 North West Street
2nd Floor, Suite 201-B
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

Dear Governor Reeves, Lieutenant Governor Hosemann, Speaker White, Chairman Hopson, Chairman Read, Chairman Wiggins, Chairman Hood, and Director Robinson:

Pursuant to Mississippi Code Annotated Section 41-153-1(18), as amended during the 2026 Regular Session, I am pleased to provide this second annual report on behalf of the Mississippi Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Council ("Council").

As of October 28, 2026, the Opioid Settlement Fund contained $84,648,494.71 in settlement funds. After all 2025-2026 grants are paid out to awardees, $77,248,494.71 will remain in the Fund. Specifically, $63,956,705.13 will remain available in abatement funds, and $13,291,789.58 will remain available in other state funds.

The Council submitted its recommendations for the 2025-2026 Opioid Settlement Fund ("OSF") grant cycle to the Legislature on December 5, 2025. During the 2026 regular session, the Legislature appropriated $49,730,382.00 in Opioid Settlement abatement funds and $9,400,000.00 in Opioid Settlement nonabatement funds for a total of $59,130,382.00. The funds were appropriated to seven state agencies, with 43 grants awarded overall. See Exhibit A, enclosed.

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All the grants awarded in the 2025-2026 grant cycle are currently ongoing. Funds could be disbursed following the start of the fiscal year on July 1, 2026. Based on feedback from applicants and legislators, the Council voted to allow the 2025-2026 awardees to opt for monthly reimbursement instead of quarterly, and several grantees chose that option. The first date all awardees submitted programmatic reports was October 10th, and we are currently compiling the information to begin populating a public data dashboard, pursuant to Section 41-153-1(15)(a)(v). There are no final outcomes to report at this time.

We would note that the Legislature awarded less funding to most individual awardees than those awardees had included in their application narratives and budgets. Following the appropriations, the Attorney General's Office worked with these awardees to revise their narratives and budgets to maintain fidelity to the projects the Legislature had approved as well as to the Legislature's awarded funding levels. This process was challenging for some awardees, particularly those with projects that involved such things as renovations to real property or salaried positions. In the coming grant cycle, the Attorney General's Office would be happy to work with the Legislature as early as possible to ensure project budgets can be more easily revised to meet the funding intentions of the Legislature.

Pursuant to Senate Bill No. 2726, Section 1(15)(a), 2026 Regular Session, the Legislature authorized the Council, by and through the Attorney General, to enter a contract with a qualified third party to create an online platform for grant application submissions, provide technical assistance to applicants, conduct an initial independent assessment of grant applications, administer grants awarded in the Attorney General's Appropriation bill, and review awardees' reports and compile results in a data dashboard.

Following publication of a Request for Qualification, the administration contract was awarded to The Steadman Group ("Steadman"). The Council's contract with Steadman was executed on June 8, 2026, as required by Senate Bill 2726, but Steadman could not begin work until the start of the 2027 Fiscal Year on July 1, 2026. Working with the Attorney General's Office, Steadman has created both programmatic and expenditure reporting templates for current grant awardees to submit their data and reimbursement information. This data will ultimately be reported to the Council and will be available to the public on a data dashboard on the Attorney General's website. The Attorney General's Office has worked with Steadman and its subcontractor, NiVACK, to address awardee questions and budget modification requests, and Steadman hosted four online "office hours" sessions to provide support for awardees as well.

Steadman simultaneously began working with the Attorney General's Office to create an online application portal for the 2026-2027 grant cycle. The portal went live on August 24, 2026, for informational purposes and opened for applications on August 31, 2026. Steadman held two public webinars to explain the online grant application, answer questions, and provide technical assistance. The grant application portal closed at 5:00 p.m. on October 12, 2026. A total of 149 grant applications were submitted, requesting a total of $142,607,510.00 in opioid settlement funds. A team of independent evaluators with Steadman began scoring applications on October 13, 2026.

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The Council has conducted two meetings in 2026 to amend rules related to the recent legislation and to determine its list of priorities for the current grant cycle. The Council approved a revised scoring rubric, the 2026 Request for Grant Applications, and MOU templates for the 2026-2027 grant cycle. All materials are available online at https://attorneygenerallynnfitch.com/opioid-settlement-fund-advisory-council/. The Council voted to allow the 2025-2026 grant awardees to opt for monthly reporting and reimbursement instead of quarterly.

The Council will vote on Steadman's grant application recommendations at the next scheduled meeting on November 23, 2026. If necessary, a second Council meeting to consider applications is scheduled for November 30, 2026. The Council will submit its recommendations to the Legislature by December 6, 2026, as required.

In the process of establishing the new grant monitoring and programmatic reporting mechanisms with Steadman, it has become clear that a comprehensive data dashboard as desired by the Legislature will require Steadman, or any other third-party administrator, to evaluate and monitor all appropriations made, not only those made through the Attorney General's Office. Separate evaluation by other agencies may lead to inconsistent data and not provide the full picture of funding. We recommend that the Legislature take that into consideration when appropriating funds for this purpose in the coming year. We also recommend that appropriations for Opioid Settlement Fund projects be effective upon passage so that the awards process can begin before July 1, 2027.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office. In particular, we welcome the opportunity to sit down and discuss the experience of this first grant cycle with you ahead of the upcoming legislative session. We are grateful for the Legislature's support for projects which will assist Mississippi communities and citizens who have been impacted by the opioid crisis. And we appreciate the opportunity to partner in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,



Lynn Fitch
Attorney General
Chair, Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Council

Enclosure

Exhibit A

Total Amount of Opioid Funds Appropriated for Projects by Agency

Agency	Bill 2026 Reg. Session	Abatement Funds	Nonabatement Funds	Total Funds
Department of Mental Health	SB 3072	$11,995,000.00	$500,000.00	$12,495,000.00
Department of Health	HB 1908	$4,560,765.00	0	$4,560,765.00
Department of Employment Security	SB 3064	$1,000,000.00	0	$1,000,000.00
IHL	SB 3053	$1,400,000.00	0	$1,400,000.00
UMMC	SB 3061	0	$5,000,000.00	$5,000,000.00
Administrative Office of Courts	HB 1931	$2,000,000.00	0	$2,000,000.00
Office of the Attorney General	HB 1924	$28,774,617.00	$3,900,000.00	$32,674,617.00
	Total	$49,730,382.00	$9,400,000.00	$59,130,382.00

Total Amount of Opioid Funds Appropriated for Projects by Agency Broken Down by Project

Agency	Projects	Abatement Funds	Nonabatement Funds
Department of Mental Health	MS Dementia Care Program – "Jimmy Kaigler Alzheimer's Support Act"		$500,000.00
	East MS State Hospital in Meridian	$895,000.00	
	Open Doors Homeless Coalition	$1,500,000.00	
	MSU for Comprehensive Needs Assessment	$100,000.00	
	Oceans Healthcare	$4,000,000.00	
	Community Mental Health Centers	$4,500,000.00	
	South Central Regional Medical Center	$1,000,000.00	
	Category Totals	$11,995,000.00	$500,000.00
	Total Abatement and Nonabatement Funds for Agency		$12,495,000.00

Agency	Projects	Abatement Funds	Nonabatement Funds
Department of Health	[MSDH] Opioid and Substance Use Disorder Program	$4,500,000.00	
	Delta Health Center	$60,765.00	
	Category Totals	$4,560,765.00	0
	Total Abatement and Nonabatement Funds for Agency		$4,560,765.00

Agency	Project	Abatement Funds	Nonabatement Funds
Department of Employment Security	Pilot program to support a recovery-to-work initiative administered by the Office in coordination with drug courts, treatment providers, and organizations providing recovery housing and supportive services	$1,000,000.00	
	Category Totals	$1,000,000.00	0
	Total Abatement and Nonabatement Funds for Agency		$1,000,000.00

Agency	Projects	Abatement Funds	Nonabatement Funds
IHL	Mississippi State University	$700,000.00	
	University of Mississippi	$700,000.00	
	Category Totals	$1,400,000.00	0
	Total Abatement and Nonabatement Funds for Agency		$1,400,000.00

Agency	Project	Abatement Funds	Nonabatement Funds
UMMC	Ibogaine Drug Development Clinical Trial		$5,000,000.00
	Category Totals	0	$5,000,000.00
	Total Abatement and Nonabatement Funds for Agency		$5,000,000.00

Agency	Project	Abatement Funds	Nonabatement Funds
Administrative Office of Courts	Funds to defray the reimbursement of the cost of adult felony Drug Court program operated by 23 circuit courts	$2,000,000.00	
	Category Totals	$2,000,000.00	0
	Total Abatement and Nonabatement Funds for Agency		$2,000,000.00

Agency	Projects	Abatement Funds	Nonabatement Funds
Office of Attorney General	AGO – funding administrative costs of 3rd-party administrator		$400,000.00
	Lafayette County Board of Supervisors		$3,500,000.00
	Amite County Medical Services	$200,000.00	
	Mississippi Hospital Association	$2,100,000.00	
	South Mississippi Mental Health Center	$700,000.00	
	Harrison County Board of Supervisors	$1,900,000.00	
	ARCare d/b MSCare	$900,000.00	
	Stercus Bioanalytics	$300,000.00	
	Communicare	$5,235,000.00	
	Mission Vigilant	$50,000.00	
	HarborPath	$1,100,000.00	
	Exodus Project	$49,867.00	
	Hope Village	$151,000.00	
	Chase Project [1 of 2]	$360,000.00	
	Foundation on the Rock	$500,000.00	
	Freedom Center	$250,000.00	
	Family Health Center	$50,000.00	
	Thrive Way	$500,000.00	
	Home of Grace	$1,200,000.00	
	Access Family Health	$250,000.00	
	MS PHI	$183,750.00	
	QuickMD	$500,000.00	
	Community Housing Development Association	$100,000.00	
	Canopy Children's Solution	$1,835,000.00	
	Chase Project [2 of 2]	$360,000.00	
	Mercy House	$3,000,000.00	
	End it for Good	$200,000.00	
	Pathway Healthcare	$4,000,000.00	

	Magee Foundation	$800,000.00	
	Mississippi Center for Police and Sheriffs	$2,000,000.00	
	Category Totals	$28,774,617.00	$3,900,000.00
	Total Abatement and Nonabatement Funds for Agency		$32,674,617.00