



Office of Governor Mark Dayton

A “Penny-a-Pill” to Fund Opioid Treatment and Prevention

Opioid overdose deaths have risen dramatically in recent years. There were 395 opioid overdose deaths last year, which marked an 18 percent increase over the previous year. Opioids have been especially harmful in tribal communities and communities of color.

In response, Governor Dayton and his Administration have worked to curb opioid use disorder and save lives. Building on [this past action](#), Governor Dayton has proposed an Opioid Action Plan. Part of that Action Plan includes an Opioid Stewardship Program, which would fund opioid abuse prevention and treatment strategies in every corner of Minnesota. The Program would require that opioid manufacturers pay a stewardship fee to fund a comprehensive prevention, treatment, and recovery effort that would curb opioid abuse and save lives in Minnesota.

Read below to learn more about Governor Dayton’s Opioid Stewardship Program, and how it would curb abuse and save lives across Minnesota.

About the “Penny-a-Pill” Opioid Stewardship Program

Why is It Needed?

Opioid overdose deaths have risen dramatically in recent years – increasing 66 percent between 2010 and 2016. Last year alone, there were 395 opioid overdose related deaths. Aggravating matters, opioid use disorder has had a disproportionate on some of Minnesota’s most vulnerable populations: tribal communities, veterans, recently incarcerated individuals, and people of color. New resources are urgently-needed for prevention and treatment services that will save lives and reverse current trends toward greater despair. In addition, the stewardship fee would discourage overprescribing.

Who Would Pay the Fee?

The Opioid Stewardship Program would require opioid manufacturers (pharmaceutical companies) to pay a base-level \$0.01 stewardship fee for each unit of drug dispensed. This fee would increase for some of the more potent opioids. After implementation, it would raise approximately \$20 million a year for treatment and recovery, prevention, and emergency response services in every corner of Minnesota.

<p>What Would It Fund?</p>	<p>If enacted, the Opioid Stewardship Program would provide urgently needed resources for prevention and treatment, over-prescription monitoring, improved access to lifesaving overdose medication, and additional law enforcement officers to reduce the flow of illicit opioids. More information about the kinds of programs that would be funded through the Opioid Stewardship Program is available here.</p>
<p>Who Would Benefit?</p>	<p>An estimated 16,800 Minnesotans struggle with an opioid use disorder.¹ However, only a fraction of these Minnesotans ever receive the treatment they need. The Opioid Stewardship Program would fund a comprehensive prevention, treatment, and recovery effort that would curb opioid abuse and save lives across Minnesota – getting help and care to thousands of people who need it now.</p>

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¹ Minnesota’s rate of opioid use disorder is estimated to be approximately [304.3 incidents per 100,000 people](#). With an estimated state population of 5,528,630 people, there would be roughly 16,800 Minnesotans with an opioid use disorder.