



A CENTURY OF STRENGTHENING CITIES

Sustaining the Work: Strategically Leveraging Opioid Settlement Funds

June 25, 2026



Disclaimer

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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OUR MISSION

To relentlessly advocate for, and protect the interests of, cities, towns, and villages by influencing federal policy, strengthening local leadership, and driving innovative solutions.

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Agenda

- 1 Orientation to Opioid Settlement Funds
- 2 Policy Options
- 3 Best Practices & Implementation Tools
- 4 Moderated Discussion

Why Are We Here?



Equip attendees with tools to invest opioid settlement funds in practical, evidence-based strategies that deliver real public health impact



Help build the case for high-impact investments through prevention, policy, funding, and cross-sector partnerships



Turn barriers into action by identifying obstacles and sharing proven solutions so that you leave with concrete next steps for your community





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Orientation to Opioid Settlement Funds

What are opioid settlement funds?

- Starting in 2017, state and local governments filed over **3,000 lawsuits against opioid manufacturers, distributors, and other related parties**
- Lawsuits started to be settled in 2021
- Over **\$57 billion in funds** have or will be provided as part of the settlements between 2022 and 2040



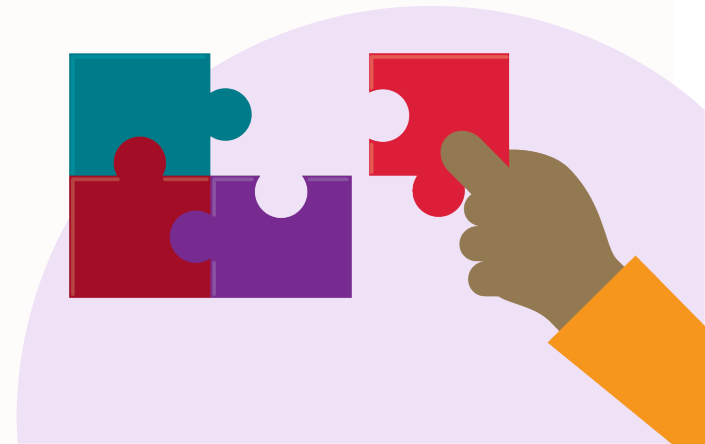
Who is receiving settlement funds?

- The **50 states, Washington DC, localities, US territories, and federally-recognized tribes** are receiving some settlement funds
- Funding dispersed with a lot of variation across states
- Led to a lot of variation in how much money cities and counties are receiving and for what type of activities



How must the settlement funds be used?

- Settlement agreements generally require at least **70% of the funds** to be **used for opioid-remediation and abatement efforts**
- They include a **broad and non-exhaustive list of allowable** opioid remediation and abatement **activities**
- Remaining funds spent on things like online information repositories, administrative and litigation costs, and non-opioid related costs



What about supplantation?

- Supplantation is using these new funds to replace money from other sources for existing programs.
- The settlement agreements don't prohibit supplantation, but some states have enacted policies restricting or prohibiting it.
- Understand what your state allows for or prohibits
- Think through long term impact on local services and programs when deciding about supplantation



ChangeLab Solutions



Christine Camilleri

Senior Planner

ChangeLab Solutions

NLC



Our Mission

*Healthier communities
for all through equitable
laws & policies*



ChangeLab
Solutions

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Disclaimer

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ChangeLab Solutions is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization that educates and informs the public through objective, non-partisan analysis, study, and/or research. The primary purpose of this discussion is to address legal and/or policy options to improve public health. There is no intent to reflect a view on specific legislation.

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Policy Options

Poll

How directly do you engage with opioid settlement funds in your city, town, or parish?

1

2

3

4

5



I am not currently engaged in these discussions.

I am helping inform the direction of settlement funding.

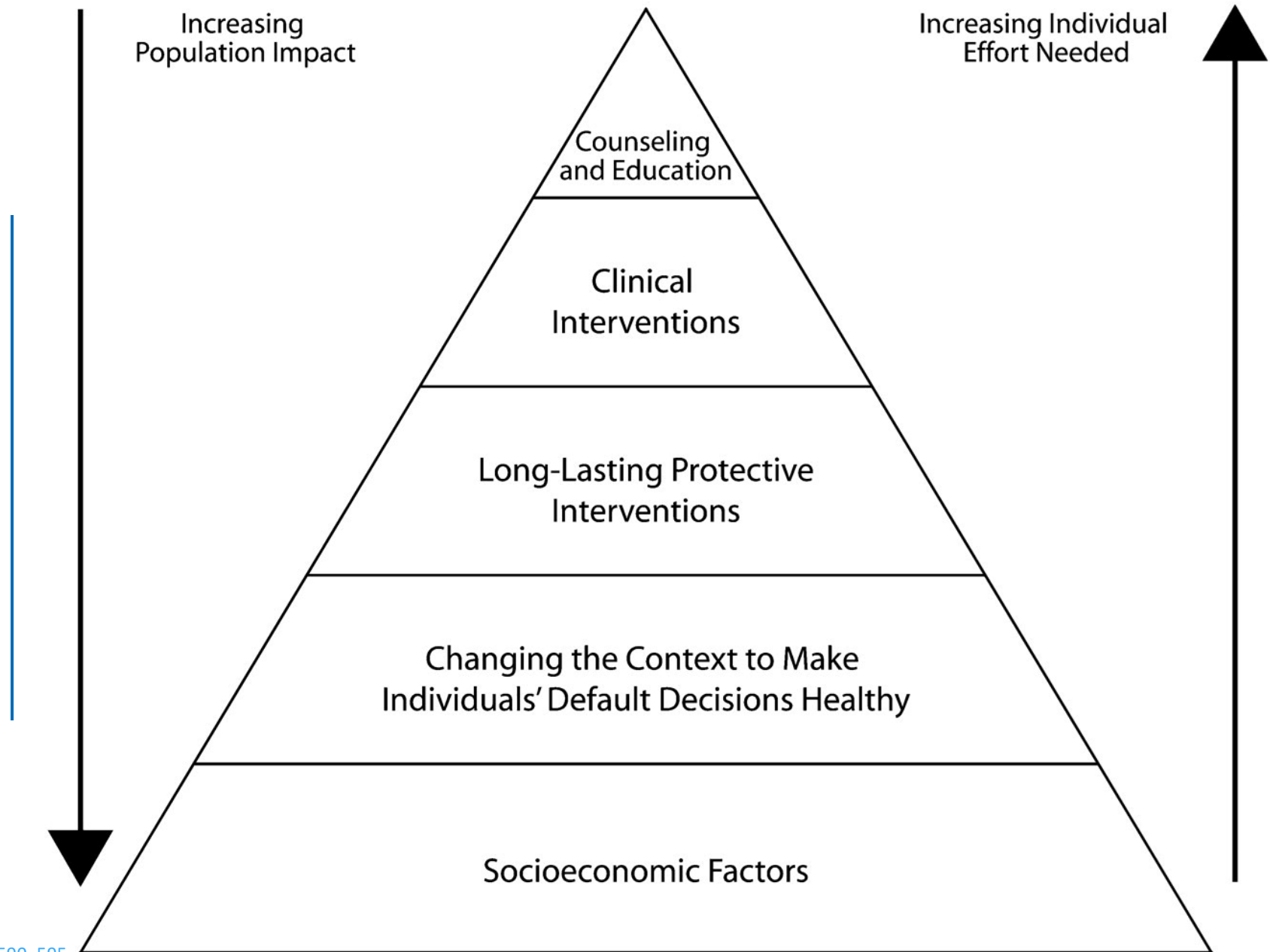
I am responsible for directing or overseeing settlement funding.

Invest in What Works

- Settlement funds present a rare, once-in- a generation opportunity to save lives through investments in **evidence-based policy**
- The evidence exists – we just have to follow it

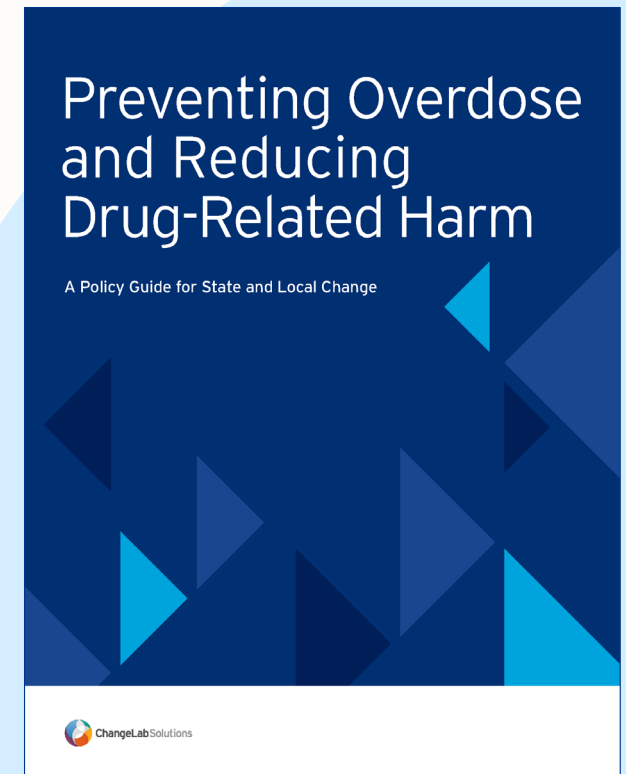


Health Impact Pyramid



Policy Options: Well-established

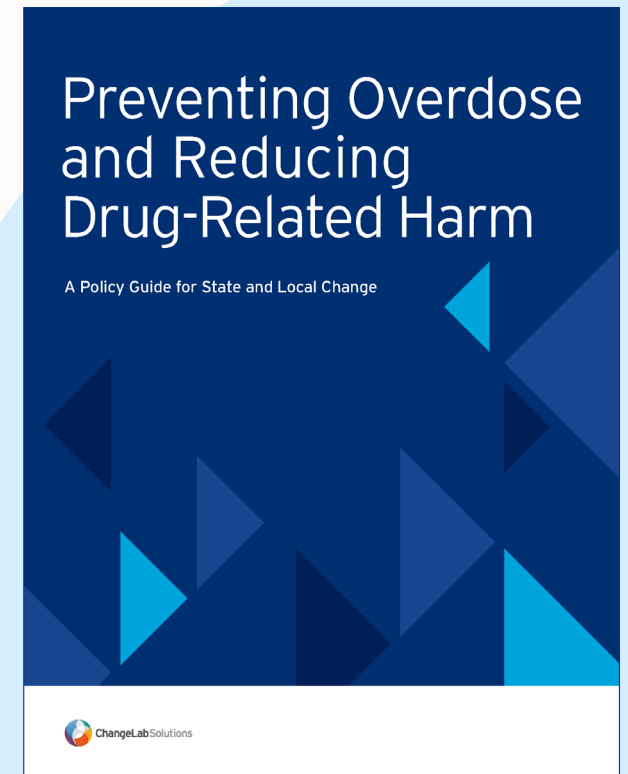
- Expand access to medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD)
- Increase naloxone access and distribution
- Strengthen Good Samaritan laws
- Authorize and expand disease and infection prevention programs
- Expand healthcare coverage and enrollment
- Strengthen behavioral health supports for youth



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Policy Options: New & Emerging

- Advance safer use practices and the legal and policy environments that support them
- Support housing access
- Expand income support programs



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Best Practices & Implementation Tools

What are best practices for using settlement funds?

- Spend money to save lives
- Use evidence to guide spending
- Invest in youth prevention
- Focus on serving those most affected using data
- Develop a fair and transparent process for deciding where to spend the funding
- Nothing about us without us

Source: Principles for the Use of Funds from the Opioid Litigation,
<https://opioidprinciples.jhsph.edu/>



Implementation Tools

Funding

- Thinking through different funding decisions especially state restrictions, state decision making processes, and supplantation

Planning for continuity of care

- Settlement funds are time-limited
- Most localities will exhaust their share well before 2040

Partnerships

- Using convening power intentionally
- **Sustainable place at the table for all:**
 - Community members
 - CBOs
 - Agencies
 - Advocates
 - Others



Fireside Chat



Aneri Pattani

Senior Correspondent

KFF Health News

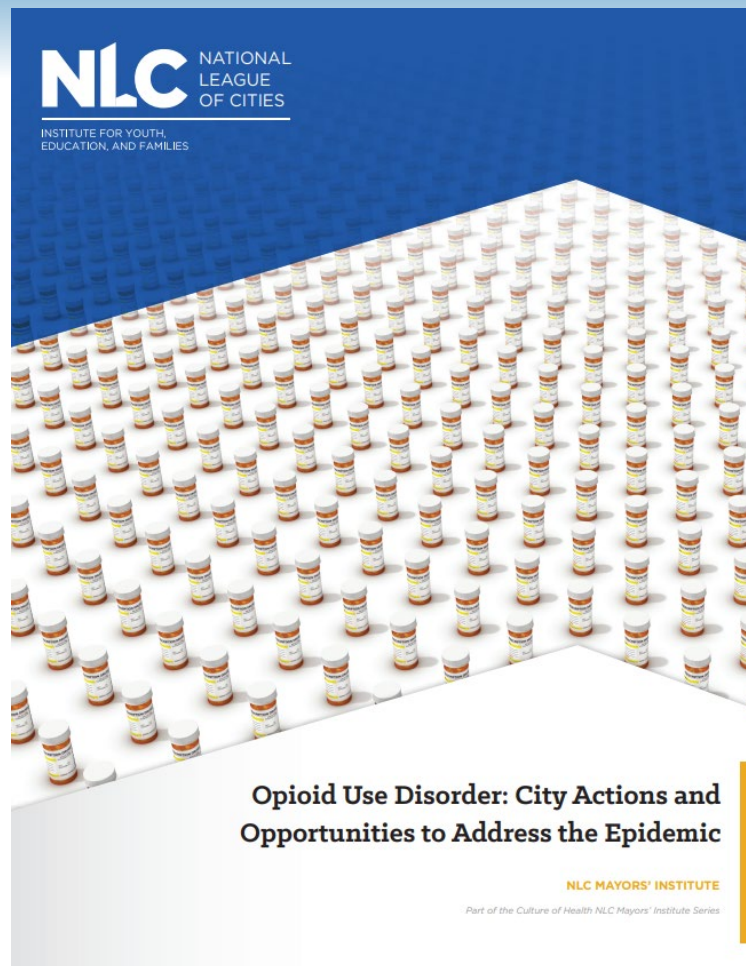


**Sara Whaley, MSW,
MPH, MA**

Executive Director of
Overdose Response

City of Baltimore, MD

Resources



[Opioid Use Disorder: City Actions and Opportunities to Address the Pandemic](#)

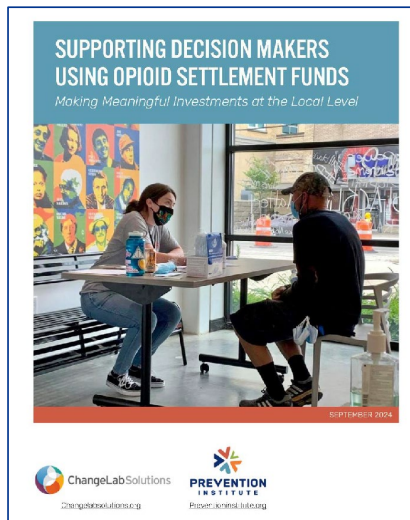


[NLC National Opioid Settlement Dashboard](#)

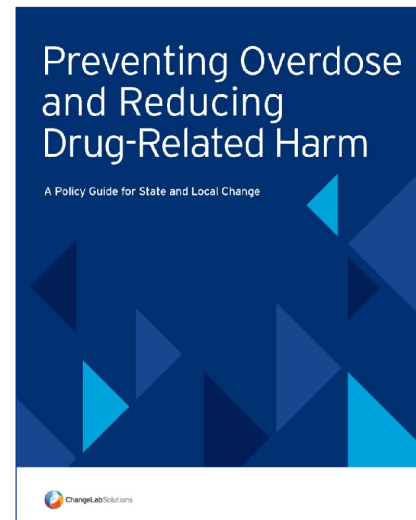


[Spreading and Scaling Innovative City Approaches to Address Mental Health, Substance Use, and Homelessness](#)

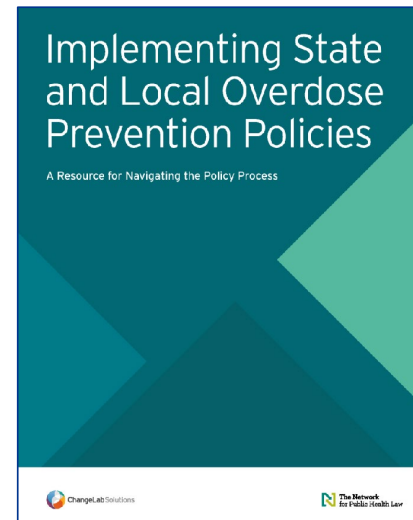
Resources



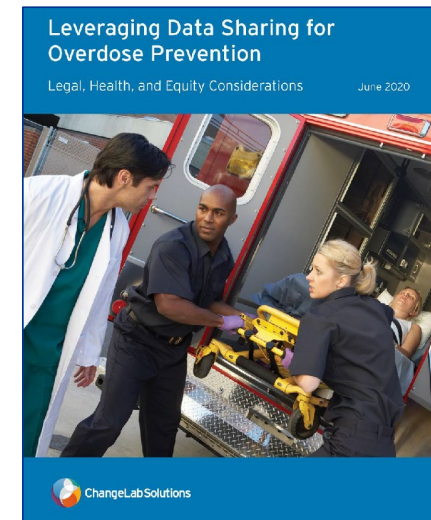
[Supporting Decision Makers in Using Opioid Settlement Funds](#)



[Preventing Overdose and Reducing Drug-Related Harm](#)



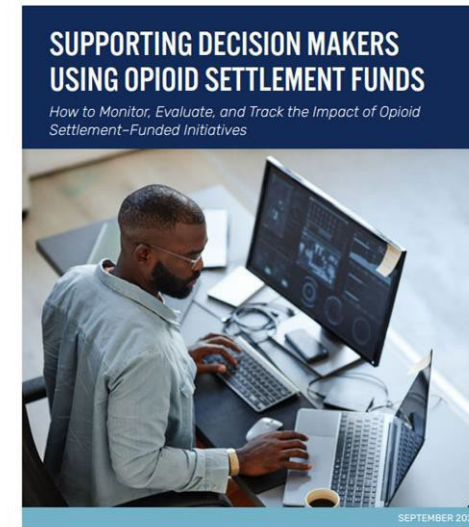
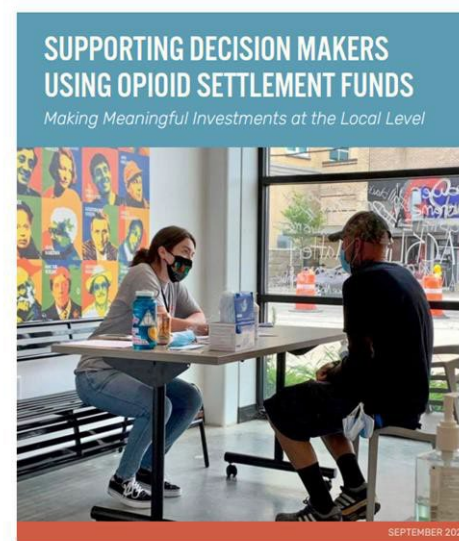
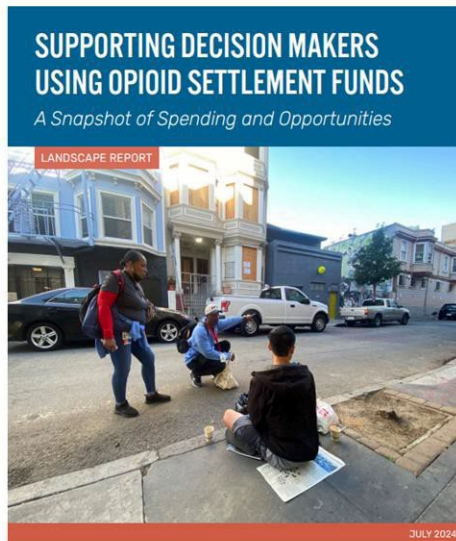
[Implementing State and Local Overdose Prevention Policies](#)



[Leveraging Data Sharing for Overdose Prevention](#)

Resources

Written materials and a resource hub offer guidance on impact measurement, making investments at the local level, supporting primary prevention, and more



Resources

**BCHC
Resource Hub**

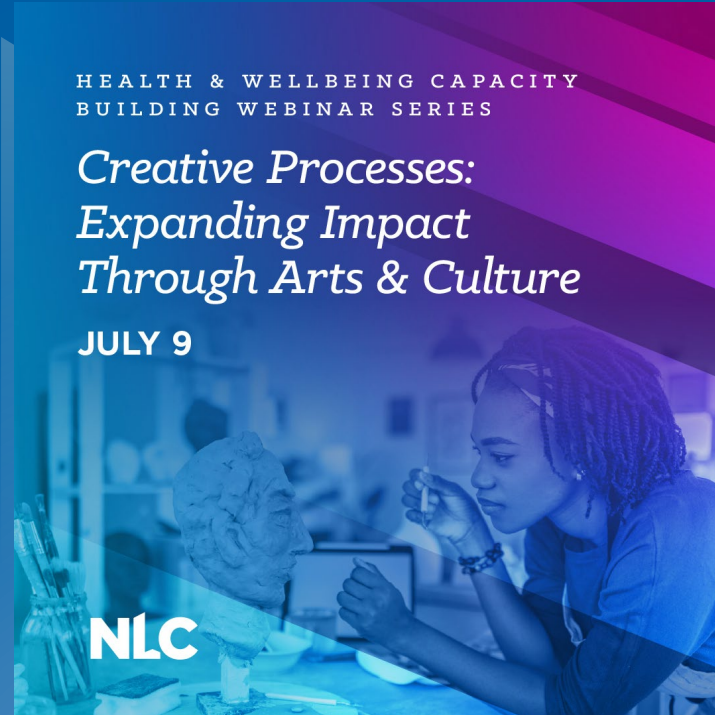


<https://bit.ly/4lGLkE9>



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Upcoming Capacity Building Session



July 9th