

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 12/12/23

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 23-1051

LOG NAME: 19INTERVENTIONS OF OPIOID USE PROGRAM FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

SUBJECT

(ALL) Approve the Allocation of Texas Opioid Settlement Funds in the Amount Up to \$664,944.64 for the Purpose of Mitigating Harms Caused by Opioid Distribution and Use and Authorize Execution of Contracts with the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth Health Systems in the Amount of \$310,339.00 and My Health My Resources of Tarrant County in the Amount of \$197,100.00

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Approve the allocation of Texas Opioid Settlement Funds in the amount of \$664,944.64 for the purpose of mitigating harms caused by opioid distribution and use;
2. Authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute contracts for a one-year term with the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth Health Systems in the amount of \$310,339.00 and My Health My Resources of Tarrant County in the amount of \$197,100.00; and
3. Authorize the City Manager or his designee to extend the contracts for up to one year if an agency or department requests an extension and such extension is necessary for completion of the program, or to amend the contracts if necessary to achieve program goals provided any amendment is within the scope of the program and in compliance with City policies and all applicable laws and regulations governing the use of these funds.

DISCUSSION:

The State of Texas and certain Political Subdivisions, through their elected representatives and counsel, seek to hold the entities responsible for the opioid use and distribution within the State of Texas accountable for damage caused and share a common desire to abate and alleviate the impacts of the opioid epidemic throughout the State of Texas.

Through the adoption of Resolution 5499-11-2021 adopted November 9, 2021, City Council joined the opioid settlement negotiated by the Texas Attorney General, affirmed its support for the adoption and approval of the *Texas Opioid Abatement Fund Council and Settlement Allocation Term Sheet* (Term Sheet) in its entirety, and found that there is a substantial need for repayment of opioid-related expenditures and payment to abate opioid-related harms in and about Fort Worth.

On March 1, 2023, the City received the first settlement payment from the Opioid Abatement Fund Council in the amount of \$665,760.73 and approved use of the funds with Mayor & Council Communication (M&C) 23-0255 on April 11, 2023. The Neighborhood Services Department has been designated as the lead department to oversee allocation and use of these funds.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) from nonprofit and social service agencies and City departments offering similar direct social services to respond for the intervention, prevention, and treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD) and any co-occurring Substance Use Disorder or Mental Health (SUD/MH) conditions through evidence-based or evidence-informed programs or activities was published on October 19, 2023. A Public Notice was published in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* on October 11, 2023, notifying potential applicants of the RFP, which resulted in an expense of \$816.09 charged to this account. The remaining available balance to allocate is \$664,944.64 (City Project No. 104782).

This program is named Interventions Of Opioid Use (IOU). All proposals were received by November 15, 2023. Staff reviewed three (3) proposals and developed recommendations for allocation of funding based on the capacity of applicant organizations.

Eligible Activities under this RFP included but were not limited to:

- Intervention
- Prevention
- Treatment
- Anything listed as eligible in Exhibit E-List of Opioid Remediation Uses (attached)

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Neighborhood Services Department staff recommends that funding be allocated as shown in the below table and contracts be executed with the following organizations:

AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM NAME	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDED FUNDING AMOUNT
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UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT FORT WORTH HEALTH SYSTEMS (HSC)	SaferCare Texas	Community-based intervention operating the SaferCare Texas with clinical executives comprised of nurses and nurse practitioners to distribute 600 naloxone kits and 1,500 drug disposal bags including 25 organizational readiness kits accompanied by educational training of trainers among students within HSC and Fort Worth based organizations and groups responding to this opportunity	\$310,339.00
MY HEALTH MY RESOURCES OF TARRANT COUNTY	Office-Based Opioid Treatment (OBOT)	Office-Based Opioid Treatment (OBOT) provides services to alleviate the adverse physiological effects of withdrawal from the use of opioids as required to meet the individualized needs of the patient. Patients will also receive wraparound group, individualized counseling, and peer supportive services in this extended program.	\$197,100.00
TOTAL			\$507,439.00

Fort Worth Fire Department - Home, Outreach, Prevention and Education (HOPE) Team

In addition to the above recommendations, the Neighborhood Services Department also recommends allocating \$157,505.64 to the Fort Worth Fire Department for the Fort Worth Fire Department HOPE Team. The proposed program within the HOPE initiative aims to address the critical issue of opioid-related incidents within our community. Leveraging the expertise of the HOPE team, the Fire Department will implement a comprehensive outreach and support service specifically tailored for individuals struggling with opioid addiction among the homeless population and high utilizers of emergency services. The program will involve proactive engagement with individuals affected by opioid addiction, providing them with access to resources such as addiction counseling, harm reduction strategies, and connections to rehabilitation services.

The Fire Department submitted a \$230,000.00 budget request for the following:

- Response Vehicles (2 vehicles - \$90,000.00): The acquisition of two response vehicles is pivotal to enhance the mobility and reach of the HOPE team. These vehicles will serve as a mobile base for paramedics during outreach, allowing swift response to emergency situations along with the ability to do follow-ups and continued care of opioid clients. The cost of the vehicles will cover the purchase, customization, and outfitting of the vehicles with essential medical equipment such as overdose prevention kits, harm reduction kits, ensuring they meet the unique needs of homeless and high-utilizer populations with opioid-related emergencies.
- Overdose Prevention Kits (OPK - \$70,000.00): Addressing the opioid crisis is a priority for the HOPE team. The budget for overdose prevention kits includes the procurement of naloxone, training materials, and community outreach initiatives. These kits will be distributed to team members, enabling them to respond effectively after opioid-related emergencies where the team can give the client a kit and provide training to at-risk individuals and community partners.
- Harm Reduction Kits (\$50,000.00): The harm reduction kits are designed to minimize the risks associated with high-risk behaviors. The budget will be utilized to procure harm reduction supplies, educational materials, and resources. These kits will be distributed during opioid outreach activities, promoting safer practices and providing valuable information on reducing health risks.
- Administration and Training (\$20,000.00): Efficient program administration and continuous training are essential for the success of the HOPE team. The budget will support administrative costs, including staff training, community engagement events, and program evaluation. This ensures that the team remains well-equipped, informed, and capable of delivering high-quality services.

The Neighborhood Services staff recommended an allocation amount to the Fire Department that is less than the requested amount. The Fire Department has the discretion to determine which of the above requested line items will be funded based on the recommended allocation.

Since no City salaries will be charged, indirect cost recovery does not apply.

These programs are available in ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that funds are available in the current operating budget, as previously appropriated, in the Grants Operating Other Fund for the TX Opioid Abatement Fund project to support the approval of the above recommendations and execution of contracts. Prior to any expenditure being incurred, the Neighborhood Services Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

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