

Milwaukee County Opioid Settlement Fund Summary of Projects Recommended for Funding Cohort 4 (FY27-29)

Aging and Disabilities Services Opioid Prevention Project (Department of Health and Human Services)	
Project Summary	This project provides outreach to older adults in Milwaukee County at risk for opioid misuse and overdosing by using data and GIS mapping to conduct door-to-door canvassing, distribute harm reduction supplies, and engage with senior living facilities. In Cohort 4, this project seeks to add a bilingual outreach worker to the team.
Accomplishments	In 2025: 11,587 overall resident contacts in 2025, comprised of: 1,050 resident contacts with outreach workers via door-to-door canvassing. 10,150 resident contacts via public health/community engagement events. 387 resident contacts via presentations. - Supplies distributed via events and canvassing: 2,064 Narcan kits; more than 1,300 test strips
Target Population	Elders, adults with disabilities, and adults at risk for opioid addiction
Intended Outcomes	Goal 1: Address the unique needs of adults at risk or older adults in Milwaukee County related to preventing and responding to opioid misuse. Goal 2: Increase the Aging and Disabilities Services' ability to identify and track the prevalence of opioid misuse among older adults.
Requested Amount	\$504,397
Community Contingency Management Treatment Program (Department of Health and Human Services)	
Project Summary	This project addresses a gap in substance use disorder (SUD) treatment in Milwaukee County. While several treatment options exist, there are limited evidence-based interventions specifically for stimulant use disorders, which continue to rise in our community. Funding would support the implementation of Contingency Management, an evidence-based treatment approach shown to be effective for stimulant, opioid, and other substance use disorders. This structured program includes drug testing, individual therapy, group sessions, and incentives for negative drug tests. Research demonstrates that Contingency Management is effective because it reinforces positive behaviors and recovery by replacing the reward associated with substance use with healthy, achievement-based incentives. Expanding Milwaukee County's treatment capacity will help prevent rising stimulant overdoses and promote a healthier, stronger community.
Accomplishments	This is a new project.
Target Population	This target population will serve adult residents of Milwaukee County living with opioid or substance use disorders (SUD), particularly stimulant use, who meet diagnostic and financial eligibility criteria for Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services (BHS). Eligible individuals must be aged 18 or older, reside in Milwaukee County, and meet income guidelines at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Access to services is facilitated through no-cost screenings conducted at designated Access Points, ensuring low-barrier care. The 2027 pilot year will work with up to four agencies in the SUD network and up to 25 clients per agency, or 100 clients total.

Intended Outcomes	1. Expand access to Contingency Management treatment services within the SUD system of care 2. Increase quality of life outcomes
Requested Amount	\$730,072

Grief Outreach and Grief-Informed Care

Project Summary	This project is a collaboration between Milwaukee County's Department of Health and Human Services Behavioral Health Services (BHS) area, the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office (MCMEO), and the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). The collaborative plans to address the areas of overdose-related grief and the reduction of future overdoses by providing grief outreach to families of victims of overdose, collecting vital data from next of kin to enrich understanding of and fatal overdose risk factors, reducing future overdose, expanding collaboration between BHS and MCMEO to identify and refer families impacted by overdose to BHS resources, providing informed training to frontline service providers and social workers, and piloting trauma and grief informed support opportunities for families impacted by overdose loss. This is a continuation of a Cohort 2 project.
Accomplishments	One highlight of 2025 was the project's consistency, with the same two Social Workers from the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) placed at the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office (MCMEO). Another highlight was the positive feedback from families and individuals about referrals to community resources during conversations with social workers. Survey responses included: "I know I needed help. I am grateful for her reaching out to me." "[Social Worker] was very concerned about my grief and offered ways to cope that I didn't know existed." "Thank you for being a source of caring in the community."
Target Population	This project serves families who live in Milwaukee County and are impacted by the death of family members in an overdose-related accident or an undetermined manner.
Intended Outcomes	The goal of this project is to address overdose-related grief and to reduce future overdoses.
Requested Amount	\$859,636

Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Behind the Walls

Project Summary	Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Behind the Walls is the use of FDA-approved medications, coupled with behavioral counseling, for individuals who are incarcerated in Milwaukee County correctional facilities and are living with an opioid use disorder.
Accomplishments	In 2025: 197 individuals participated in the MAT Behind the Walls program at the Community Reintegration Center (CRC) and the Criminal Justice Facility (CJF) in 2025. - In 2025, 70% of individuals with an identified Opioid Use Disorder at CRC and CJF participate in the MAT Behind the Walls program. The remaining individuals (82) are on a waiting list.
Target Population	Incarcerated individuals
Intended Outcomes	To reduce the risk of overdose deaths for individuals who are incarcerated at the CRC and the CJF who participate in the MAT Behind the Walls program.
Request Amount	\$1,088,913

Medical Examiner Staffing Needs

Project Summary	The Office of the Medical Examiner will fund three positions through OSF: forensic pathologist, medicolegal death investigator, and forensic chemist. These positions support the scope of work of the medical examiner's office and the investigation into drug-related deaths. This is a continuation of a Cohort 1 project.
Accomplishments	• Turn-around time to complete death investigations has been reduced from 51 days in 2024 to 49 days in 2025. This is down from 124 days in 2023. • Toxicology turnaround time has been reduced from 25 days in 2023 to 20 days in 2025.
Target Population	Death investigations in Milwaukee County serve all citizens, including those in historically underserved, marginalized, and/or adversely affected groups.
Intended Outcomes	These additional staffing positions will affect the Medical Examiner's Office's investigation turnaround time and capacity.
Request Amount	\$294,607

Opioid Responsive Park System

Project Summary	Milwaukee County Parks will create an Opioid-Responsive Park System to reduce overdose risk and improve safety across its park spaces. The project combines equipping Park Rangers with naloxone and overdose-response training, installing and maintaining sharps disposal infrastructure, and supporting contracted syringe-collection and cleanup services in high-need locations. Together, these efforts extend harm reduction strategies into publicly accessible spaces where individuals and the broader community are directly impacted.
Accomplishments	This is a new project.
Target Population	This project serves all Milwaukee County residents by improving safety and conditions throughout the park system, which is widely used by people of all ages, backgrounds, and communities. Within these shared spaces, the project is specifically designed to reach individuals at the highest risk of opioid overdose, including individuals actively using substances in park environments, individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability, and others who may not be consistently connected to traditional healthcare or social service systems.
Intended Outcomes	Short-Term Objectives (Year 1: FY27) • Equip 100% of Park Ranger patrol units with naloxone, AEDs, and necessary safety equipment. • Train all Park Rangers in overdose response protocols in coordination with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) within the first year of implementation. • Install and begin servicing sharps disposal containers in identified park locations with demonstrated need. Long-Term Objectives (FY27–FY29) • Maintain consistent availability of naloxone and overdose response equipment across all Ranger patrol units throughout the project period. • Provide ongoing hazardous waste disposal and cleanup services to reduce exposure to improperly discarded syringes and other materials in park environments. • Track and review patrol activity, overdose response incidents, and cleanup needs on a regular basis to inform adjustments to deployment and resource allocation.
Request Amount	\$173,486

Substance Use Disorder System

Project Summary	This project addresses how the capacity of Milwaukee County's SUD treatment system has not increased commensurate with this public health opioid crisis. By adding flexible funds that provide an opportunity for all individuals living with addiction to access the substance use treatment system of care and by covering a wide array of services, BHS will be able to better meet the opioid epidemic-related needs while preventing
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	overdoses and critical system gaps. This project supports BHS's array of community providers, who deliver fee-for-service evidence-based care across the continuum, including outpatient, residential, and recovery support services.
Accomplishments	In 2025: 1,114 individuals were served by the SUD system of care, funded with this project. 846 individuals received case management (recovery support coordination) 732 individuals received medically monitored residential treatment 281 individuals received bridged housing 58 individuals received "other" clinical treatment, such as outpatient/day treatment or medication-assisted treatment
Target Population	This project will serve adult residents of Milwaukee County living with substance use disorders (SUD) who meet diagnostic and financial eligibility criteria for Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services (BHS). Eligible individuals must be age 18 or older, reside in Milwaukee County, and meet income guidelines at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Access to services is facilitated through no-cost screenings conducted at designated Access Points, ensuring a low-barrier entry into care.
Intended Outcomes	Objective 1: Ensure access to the SUD system of care. Objective 2: Quality of Life Outcomes. Objective 3: Participant Satisfaction Objective 4: Continuous Quality Improvement
Request Amount	\$3,003,821

Strengthening Youth Justice (Department of Health and Human Services)

Project Summary	Milwaukee County's Department of Health and Human Services Children, Youth, and Family Service Division (CYFS) will improve education, treatment, and community-based linkages for detained young people with substance use disorders. To execute the proposed plan, CYFS will create and fund two new positions – a clinical director and one additional clinician – who would provide prevention and intervention services for young people detained in the Vel R. Phillips Juvenile Detention Center and those returning to the community following detention.
Accomplishments	In 2025: 24 youth received weekly individual therapy services while in detention in the MCAP program. - Of the 67 youths released, 61% were referred for post-release services to ensure continuing support.
Target Population	The population served by this project is justice-involved youth who have historically experienced barriers to opportunities for people of color and those with lower incomes, stemming from inequitable policies and practices across health care, child care, education, and other social determinants of health.
Intended Outcomes	Goal 1: Improve diagnosis, treatment, and services for detained and incarcerated young people in Milwaukee struggling with substance use disorders and trauma. Goal 2: Increase referrals for caregivers, siblings, and other family members of incarcerated youth to needed services and supports; and Goal 3: Strengthen and expand collaboration between CYFS and community-based agencies that provide services and supports for people with substance use disorders.
Request Amount	\$802,660