

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: June 24, 2026

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Nicholas Sinram, Director, Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance
Heather Wolfgram, Strategy and Performance Project Manager, Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance

Subject: Report from the Director, Office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance, requesting allocation of \$7,457,592 in Opioid Settlement Funds to support recommended projects in FY27-FY29

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance (SBP) recommends approval of \$7,457,592 in Opioid Settlement fund allocations for eight proposals to address the opioid crisis in Milwaukee County for fiscal years 2027, 2028, and 2029.

POLICY

The County Board authorized the Office of Corporation Counsel (OCC) to retain outside counsel under a contingency fee arrangement and to file suit against opioid manufacturers and distributors as the OCC deemed appropriate in [File 17-722](#).

2021 State Act 57 created Section 165.12, Wisconsin State Statutes (State Statutes), relating to the settlement of all or part of the Litigation. Section 165.12(4)(b)2, State Statutes, provides that the proceeds from the Settlement Agreement must be deposited in a segregated account (the Opioid Abatement Account) and may be expended only for approved uses for opioid abatement, as provided in the Settlement Agreements.

BACKGROUND

The Milwaukee County Board approved Resolutions [21-1127](#) and [23-490](#), which authorized Milwaukee County OCC to enter into Settlement Agreements to receive funds from three Opioid Settlement distributors and five pharmacies. Additional settlements continue to work through the system. Currently, settlements have resulted in a net of \$111.5 million paid to Milwaukee County over the next 18 years (Table A).

Table A: Summary of Opioid Settlement Awards

Settlement	Wisconsin Total	Milwaukee County Total	Milwaukee County Net (after attorney fees)
First Settlement (Distributors and Manufacturers)	\$420 million	\$71 million	\$57.3 million
Second Settlement (Pharmacies)	\$321 million	\$56.7 million	\$50 million
Third Settlement (Kroger)	\$21.7 million	\$3 million	\$2.4 million
Additional Settlements	N/A	N/A	\$1.8 million
Remnant Defendants Settlement	TBD	TBD	TBD
Secondary Manufacturers	TBD	TBD	TBD
Purdue/Sackler	\$80 million	TBD	TBD
Total (Net to Milwaukee County):			\$111.5 million

Milwaukee County gathered input from County stakeholders and facilitated a process to make allocation recommendations for the Opioid Settlement Funds. This process was presented to the Milwaukee Board of Supervisors during the December 2022 cycle in [File 22-1135](#).

Opioid Settlement Funded Projects - Cohort 1 (Projects funded for FY23-25)

Fifteen projects totaling \$16,548,068 received authorization for funding from the Milwaukee County Board through [Files 23-114](#) and [23-799](#).

Opioid Settlement Funded Projects – Cohort 2 (Projects funded for FY24-26)

In July 2024, the Milwaukee County Board adopted [File 24-865](#), authorizing \$8,512,627 in funding for seven projects across three County departments.

Opioid Settlement Funded Projects – Cohort 3 (Projects funded FY26-28)

In July 2025, the Milwaukee County Board adopted [File 25-465](#), authorizing \$9,103,671 in funding for seven projects across three County departments.

The Allocation Process approved in [File 22-1135](#) will be repeated annually. The timeline for the Cohort 4 (FY27-29) recommendation process is below:

Proposal Phase (November 2025-March 2026)

County service areas proposed projects that include one-time equipment, technology, or capital items, or programmatic expenses for up to three years.

Review Phase (March-May 2026)

A nine-person review panel was established, comprising five community professionals (56%), two county staff (22%), and two individuals with lived experience (22%). The panel reviewed proposals based on predetermined criteria and deliberated to make subject matter, equity-based spending recommendations that maximize the positive impact of opioid settlement funds in Milwaukee County.

Approval Phase (May-June 2026)

During the July Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors meeting, the Office of SBP will present a funding authorization request for eight projects totaling \$7,457,592. Upon Board approval, funds will be transferred to departments to begin project implementation.

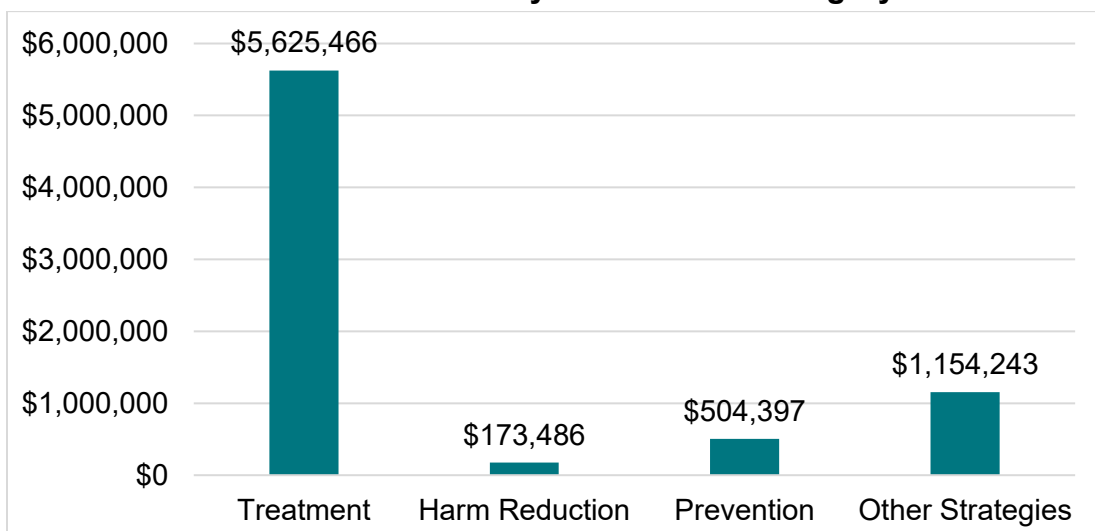
A summary of the proposals is available in Attachment A: Milwaukee County Opioid Proposals Summary Chart. An overview of the proposals is provided below (Table B).

Table B: Summary of Recommended Proposals by Department

Lead Department	Number of Proposals	Amount Requested
Health and Human Services	6	\$6,989,917
Parks	1	\$173,486
Medical Examiner	1	\$294,607
Total:	8	\$7,457,592

As shown in the charts below, the goal was to address the opioid crisis holistically and to equitably fund both upstream (prevention, other strategies) and downstream efforts (treatment and harm reduction). Chart A shows that Treatment received the most funding. This aligns with the first two cohorts, in which Treatment and Harm Reduction were the primary remediation categories funded.

Chart A: Amount Recommended by Remediation Category



As shown in Table B, DHHS is recommended to receive the majority of the FY27-29 funds due to its frontline role in addressing the opioid crisis.

Table C summarizes the recommended projects by department and funding allocation. Consistent with Milwaukee County's strategic approach, the recommendations balance investments across the continuum of care, including treatment, harm reduction, prevention, and other evidence-based strategies, while targeting identified service gaps and advancing health equity goals.

To inform these recommendations, Milwaukee County partnered with the Medical College of Wisconsin to conduct a needs assessment and gap analysis. The findings were shared with interested departments and provided additional data to support funding decisions.

While most recommended projects represent continued investment in existing initiatives that have demonstrated alignment with the County's opioid response priorities, two new projects emerged in response to needs identified through the assessment process and feedback from the review panel:

Community Contingency Management (DHHS): This project will support individuals with stimulant use disorders, an area of growing concern as cocaine is increasingly involved in opioid-related overdoses. Contingency Management (CM) is an evidence-based behavioral therapy that provides tangible rewards, such as gift cards, vouchers, or prizes, to participants for meeting specific recovery goals, including submitting drug-negative tests, abstaining from substances, or maintaining treatment attendance.

Opioid Responsive Parks System (Parks): This project will provide naloxone training and supplies to Parks staff and expand public education efforts and safe needle-disposal opportunities throughout the park system.

The remaining recommended projects are continuations of existing initiatives that have demonstrated alignment with the County's opioid response priorities.

Table C: Projects Recommended for Funding in FY27-29

Project Title	Remediation Category	Lead Department	Request Amount
Substance Use Disorder System	Treatment	DHHS	\$3,003,821
MAT Behind the Walls	Treatment	DHHS	\$1,088,913
Grief Outreach and Grief-Informed Care	Other Strategies	DHHS	\$859,636
Strengthening Youth Justice	Treatment	DHHS	\$802,660
Community Contingency Management	Treatment	DHHS	\$730,072
Aging and Disabilities Prevention	Prevention	DHHS	\$504,397
Medical Examiners Staffing Needs	Other Strategies	ME	\$294,607

Opioid Responsive Park System	Harm Reduction	Parks	\$173,486
Total Amount Requested			\$7,457,592

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item is directly related to the County's strategic goals 2A: *Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity* and 3A: *Invest "upstream" to address root causes of health disparities*. The County seeks proposals that aim to address the opioid crisis utilizing multiple, innovative strategies, including treatment, harm reduction, prevention, and others.

FISCAL EFFECT

Approval of this action will provide a total of \$7,457,592 in Opioid Settlement Funds to eight projects for fiscal years 2027, 2028, and 2029 in the Departments of Health and Human Services, Parks, and the Medical Examiner's Office.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

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Heather Wolfgram, Strategy and Performance Project Manager

APPROVED BY:

Nicholas Sinram, Strategy, Budget & Performance Office Director

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Milwaukee County Opioid Proposals Summary Chart
Attachment C: PowerPoint
Attachment D: Fiscal Note
Attachment E: Resolution

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk