

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: June 18, 2025

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

From: Joe Lamers, Director, Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance *JOSEPH LAMERS*
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 \$9,103,671 in Opioid Settlement Funds to support recommended projects in FY26-FY28

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance (SBP) recommends approval of \$9,103,671 in Opioid Settlement fund allocations for seven proposals to address the opioid crisis in Milwaukee County for fiscal years 2026, 2027, and 2028.

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 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 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
Total			\$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 fund authorization 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](#), granting fund authorization for \$8,512,627 for seven projects from three County departments.

The Allocation Process approved in [File 22-1135](#) will be repeated annually. The timeline for the Cohort 3 (FY26-28) recommendation process is below:

Proposal Phase (November 2024-March 2025)

County service areas proposed projects that include one-time equipment, technology or capital items or programmatic expenses for up to three years. SBP then partnered with departments to provide feedback to enhance proposals.

Review Phase (March-May 2025)

An eight-person review panel was established and composed of four community professionals (50%), two county staff (25%), and two individuals with lived experience (25%). 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. Nine proposals were prioritized through this initial review process. A second panel of three subject matter experts evaluated the nine proposals and recommended seven for funding.

Approval Phase (May-June 2024)

During the July Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors meeting, the Office of SBP will

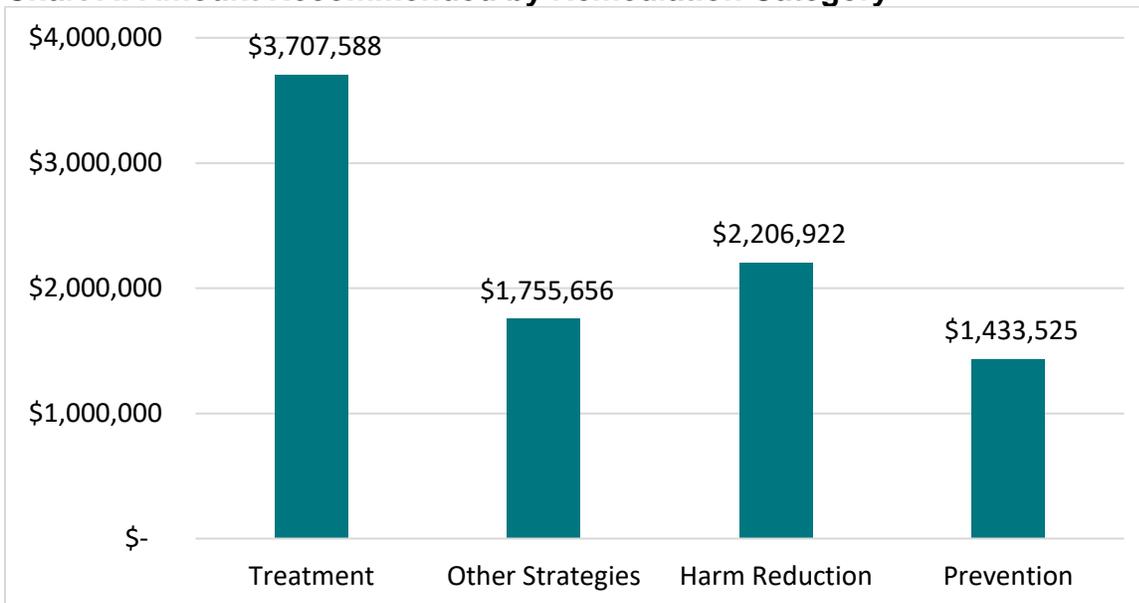
present a request for funding authorization for seven projects totaling \$9,103,671. Upon Board approval, funds will be transferred to departments to begin project implementation. A summary of the proposals can be found in Attachment A: Milwaukee County Opioid Proposals Summary Chart. An overview of 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	5	\$6,860,258
Office of Emergency Management	1	\$487,777
Medical Examiner	1	\$1,755,636
Total:	7	\$9,103,671

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, where Treatment and Harm Reduction were the primary funded remediation categories.

Chart A: Amount Recommended by Remediation Category



DHHS is recommended to receive the majority of the FY26-28 funds due to its frontline work addressing the opioid crisis. The department maximized other funding sources and was well-positioned to identify and propose equitable approaches for expanding treatment access for individuals with opioid-related substance use disorder, specifically targeting service gaps. Table C below summarizes projects by departments and their funding allocations, illustrating how the County strategically targeted funding to address service gaps and equity goals.

Table C: Projects Recommended for Funding in FY 26-28

Project Title	Remediation Category	Lead Department	Request Amount
Community Regranting	Treatment	DHHS	\$2,295,087
ME Staffing Needs	Other Strategies	ME	\$1,755,636
Harm Reduction Supplies	Harm Reduction	DHHS	\$1,719,145
SUD Residential Room and Board	Treatment	DHHS	\$1,412,501
Aging & Disabilities Prevention Program	Prevention	DHHS	\$1,018,341
Harm Reduction Data Analytics	Harm Reduction	OEM	\$487,777
Prevention Integration	Prevention	DHHS	\$415,184
Total Amount Requested			\$9,103,671

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 \$9,103,671 in Opioid Settlement Funds to seven projects for fiscal years 2026, 2027, and 2028 in the Departments of Health and Human Services, Office of Emergency Management, and the Medical Examiner’s Office.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Joe Lamers, joseph.lamers@milwaukeecountywi.gov;
Ashley Adsit, ashley.adsit@milwaukeecountywi.gov;
Claire Miller, claire.miller@milwaukeecountywi.gov; and
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PREPARED BY:

Heather Wolfgram, Strategy and Performance Project Manager

APPROVED BY:

Joseph Lamers, 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