

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: February 4, 2023

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

From: Joe Lamers, Director, Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance *JOSEPH LAMERS*

Subject: Report from the Director, Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance, requesting allocations of \$11,456,094 in Opioid Settlement Funds to support recommended projects in FY23-FY25

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance recommends approval of \$11,456,094 in Opioid Settlement fund allocations for 15 proposals aimed at addressing the opioid crisis in Milwaukee County for fiscal years 2023, 2024, and 2025.

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.

On December 15, 2021, the Milwaukee County Board approved Resolution [21-1127](#) which authorized Milwaukee County Office of Corporation Counsel (OCC) to enter into Settlement Agreements to receive funds from three Opioid Settlement distributors.

BACKGROUND

Milwaukee County has among the highest rates of overdose deaths in Wisconsin, and record numbers of emergency calls related to overdoses have been seen in the last two years. From 2014-2020, the opioid overdose fatality rate in Milwaukee County was 30.9 per 100,000 persons, more than twice the Wisconsin rate of 14.8 per 100,000.

Wisconsin will receive \$420 million which will be divided between 87 local governments. Milwaukee County's portion of those funds total approximately \$71 million. After attorney fees, Milwaukee County will receive \$56.6 million over 18 years.

The Comptroller’s Office projects that Milwaukee County will receive approximately \$19.1M in Opioid Settlement funding through 2025 based on a disbursement schedule provided by advisors. The office continues to monitor <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com> to track progress of payments on a national basis.

Table A: Anticipated Disbursement by Fiscal Year

FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	TOTAL
\$9,690,043	\$2,068,598	\$2,589,143	\$4,816,028	\$19,163,814

Approved County Board Resolution [21-1127](#) called for the establishment of a segregated Opioid Abatement Account that is not part of the general fund. Any unused funds that remain at the end of the year will be carried over to the new year.

Allocation Process

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 Supervisors during the December board cycle in [File 22-1135](#).

Proposal Phase (October 2022): County service areas proposed projects that include one-time equipment, technology or capital items or programmatic expenses for up to three years. The proposal window will be replicated annually based on fund availability from current and future settlements.

Review Phase (November-December 2022): An eight-person review panel was established and composed of six community members and stakeholders (75%) and two County content experts (25%). The panel reviewed proposals based on predetermined criterion and deliberated to make subject matter, equity-based spending recommendations that maximize the positive impact of opioid settlement funds in Milwaukee County.

Approval Phase (January-February 2023): The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors is being presented with a request for fund authorization for 15 recommended projects totaling \$11,456,094. Implementation will launch shortly thereafter.

Milwaukee County gathered local, statewide, and program specific input from community members, stakeholders and front-line staff in the development of initial Opioid Settlement Fund project investments. Milwaukee County departments pursue community engaging activities on an ongoing basis, complimenting the availability of Opioid Settlement Funds. Attachment B outlines the various modes of input considered in the development of the project recommendations.

Review Panel Recommendation

The Opioid Settlement Review Panel recommends approval of \$11,456,094 in Opioid

Settlement funds for 15 proposals aimed at addressing the opioid crisis in Milwaukee County for fiscal years 2023, 2024, and 2025. A summary of those proposals is provided below.

Table B: Summary of Recommended Proposals by Department

Lead Department	Number of Proposals	Amount Requested
Health and Human Services	7	\$7,510,591
Office of Emergency Management	4	\$1,762,163
Medical Examiner	3	\$2,116,840
Sheriff's Office	1	\$66,500
Total:	15	\$11,456,094

Table C: Amount Recommended by Remediation Category

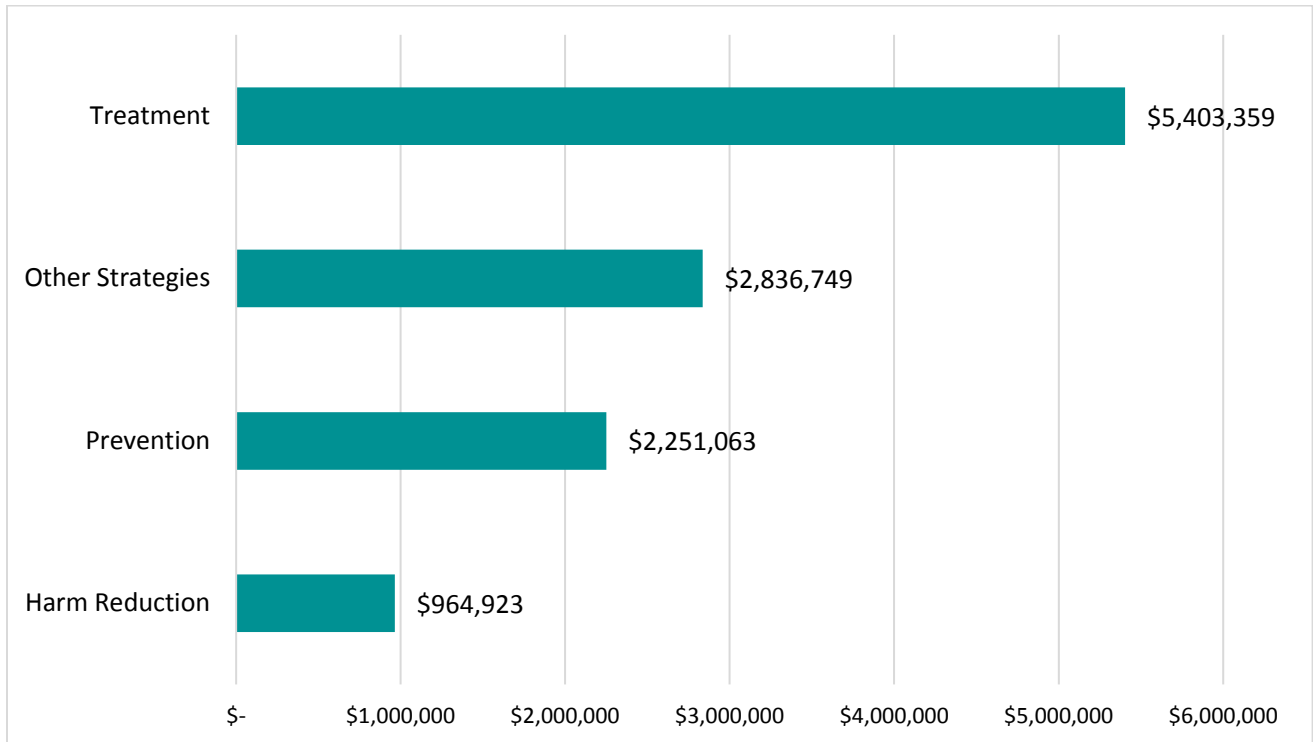


Table C: Projects Recommended for Funding in FY 2023, 2024, 2025

Project Title	Remediation Category	Lead Department	Request Amount
MAT – Behind the Walls	Treatment	DHHS	\$2,514,909
ME Staffing Needs	Other Strategies	Medical Examiner	\$ 1,904,942
Coordination of Opioid Prevention Services Project	Prevention	DHHS	\$1,407,402
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Capacity	Treatment	DHHS	\$1,071,140
Aging and Disabilities Services Opioid Prevention Project	Prevention	DHHS	\$843,661
Education and Treatment for Justice Involved Youth	Treatment	DHHS	\$799,190
Harm Reduction Data Analytics	Harm Reduction	OEM	\$719,909
Opioid Treatment in the Prehospital Environment	Treatment	OEM	\$536,550
Homeless Outreach Project	Treatment	DHHS	\$481,570
Opioid Educator- EMS	Harm Reduction	OEM	\$407,798
Harm Reduction Supplies	Harm Reduction	DHHS	\$392,719
Portable Body Cooler	Other Strategies	Medical Examiner	\$192,448
Harm Reduction Kit	Harm Reduction	OEM	\$97,906
Patrol Division Narcan Deployment and Education	Harm Reduction	Sheriff’s Office	\$66,500
Autopsy Carts	Other Strategies	Medical Examiner	\$19,450
Total Amount Requested			\$11,456,094

A summary of the proposals can be found in Attachment A.

Funds will be transferred to departments following County Board approval in February 2023. Proposed budgets include expense line items that will be expended by December 31, 2025.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item is directly related 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 other strategies. Further, proposals must address one of the funding objectives derived from statewide listening sessions and recommendations from the City/County Opioid Heroin Task Force.

FISCAL EFFECT

Approval of this action will provide a total of \$11,456,094 in Opioid Settlement Funds to 15 projects for fiscal years 2023, 2024, 2025 in the departments of Health and Human Services, Office of Emergency Management, Medical Examiner’s Office and the Sheriff’s Department.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Joe Lamers, joseph.lamers@milwaukeecountywi.gov;
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Claire Miller, claire.miller@milwaukeecountywi.gov;
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PREPARED BY:

Heather Wolfgram, Strategy and Performance Project Manager

APPROVED BY:

Joseph Lamers, Strategy, Budget & Performance Office Director

JOSEPH LAMERS

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A: Milwaukee County Opioid Proposals Summary
- Attachment B. Summary of Community Engagement
- Attachment C: PowerPoint
- Attachment D: Fiscal Note
- Attachment E: Resolution
- Attachment F: Anticipated Payment Schedule

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