ST. LOUIS COUNTY OPIOID REMEDIATION SETTLEMENT FUNDS BLUEPRINT

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LITIGATION & SETTLEMENT

Approximately **3,000 lawsuits** were brought against opioid manufacturers, distributors, retail pharmacy chains, and even marketing consulting firms for their role in the damages caused by the opioid overdose epidemic and opioid addiction crisis. Due to the sheer volume of lawsuits, many cases were consolidated into multidistrict litigation (MDL) in order to more efficiently manage proceedings. As a result, **$568 million** was directed to Minnesota.

In December 2021, the Minnesota Attorney General's Office reached an agreement with Minnesota cities and counties that determined the allocation of the settlement funds to be 75% to counties and cities and 25% to the State. All 87 counties and all eligible cities within Minnesota will receive settlement payments so long as they joined the settlement through the State of Minnesota Attorney General's Office. Fund distribution was established through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). **St. Louis County stands to receive approximately $18 million over the next 18 years.** The cities of Duluth and Proctor will also receive settlement funds.

The settlement isn't meant to compensate individuals who have suffered opioid-related harm, it's meant to provide funding to state, local, and tribal governments to be used to combat the opioid crisis, including detailed programs and strategies focused on:

- **Treatment** including support for those in treatment, connections to care, addressing needs of criminal justice-involved persons, and addressing needs of perinatal, caregivers, and families.
- **Prevention** including appropriate prescribing, preventing misuse, and harm reduction.
- Other elements including opioid-related **first responder expenditures, planning and coordination, training, research, and post-mortem expenses**.

HISTORY OF OPIOIDS IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MN

Opioids have a staggering impact on people in St. Louis County:

- Between 2018 and 2022, **calls to 911 for opioid involved overdoses increased by 225%** (151 calls in 2018 and 492 calls in 2022).
- Between 2011 and 2021, **fatal drug overdoses involving synthetic opioids increased by 1,260%** (from 5% in 2011 to 68% in 2021).
- Between 2017-2022, **67% of out-of-home placements county-wide involved drug use in the household.**
- **45% of substantiated maltreatment county-wide involved drug use in the household.**
- There continues to be an **increase in cases of hepatitis C and other injection-drug related infection** rates.
- Substance misuse prevention continues to be reflected in the County's **Community Health Needs Assessment**.

Snapshot of History of Work Throughout the Community:

- Opioid Abuse Response Strategies (OARS) committee work – long standing history of building bridges between sectors and needs
- Several community coalitions from across the County continue to work diligently across sectors to positively impact the community's health:
  - CAPE: Chemical Awareness Prevention and Education Coalition
  - EPARC: Ely Prevention and Recovery Coalition
  - Community Solutions in Duluth
- Several community organizations work daily in a person-centered approach to meet individuals and families where they are and to positively impact the community
- Support from legislators, including Representative Olson and Representative Baker co-authoring a bill establishing the Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council and other opiate related legislation

SUMMARY

2021

The Minnesota Attorney General convened an Advisory Panel to solicit feedback from state, county, and city public health experts, members of the State's Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC), and community service providers on how best to distribute opioid settlement money throughout Minnesota. This panel created a Memorandum of Agreement.

- Linnea Mirsch, St. Louis County Public Health & Human Services Director, was appointed to serve on the the advisory panel.
- Minnesota Memorandum of Agreement established Public Health as Chief Strategist

2022

The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners put out a call for advisory committee members. 21 individuals applied and were appointed to the committee. Additionally, the County Board Chair appointed three County Commissioners, the Public Health & Human Services Director, the Sheriff, and the County Attorney to the committee.

- The advisory committee was established to make recommendations for prioritization of settlement funds for long-term impact.
- The committee met six times in 2022.
- Highlights of the committee work:
  - Evaluated current work happening within the county.
  - Reviewed local data trends and needs.
  - Developed a Community Needs Survey which was distributed to community partners across public safety, public health, social services, healthcare, behavioral health, and persons with lived experience.
  - Identified next steps and strategies based off survey results.
  - Developed and issued a Request for Proposal focusing on:
    - Enriched Broad Prevention – Youth
    - Enriched Broad Prevention – Community Stigma Reduction
    - Harm Reduction
  - Reviewed and scored RFP applications.

Continued on next page

2023

- Provided recommendations to the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners on proposals to fund based off funding eligibility and priority needs.
- 8 proposals were approved for funding.
- Contracts were executed and work began in March 2023.

2023 & Beyond

- Create a county-wide communication plan focused on prevention education, community stigma reduction, and harm reduction education.
- Work with Sheriff's Office, including county jail, to identify needs of justice-involved individuals.
- Hold quarterly advisory committee meeting to assess impacts and adjust use of funding as needed.

THE PROCESS | ST. LOUIS COUNTY'S ROAD MAP TO TRANSPARENT, EFFECTIVE USE OF FUNDS

With available expert guidance from...

- State of Minnesota
- Johns Hopkins
- Colorado Health Institute

and a County Board initiated request for an advisory committee.

A call was put out for community experts with professional and lived experience to join the **Opioid Remediation Settlement Advisory Committee.**

Along with the 21 community applicants approved by the County Board, the following county officials were also added:

- **3 County Commissioners**
- **Director of Public Health & Human Services**
- **County Attorney**
- **County Sheriff**

The Committee met monthly to review State and local data regarding the state of the opioid epidemic within the County

&

administered a survey to guide prioritization.

Survey results were refined by committee members and priorities were set.

An initial Request for Proposals (RFP) was posted and shared through collaboratives and community partners.

All proposals were reviewed by a subset of volunteers from the committee and scored using a score card.

Scored proposals were presented to the Committee and proposed action was presented to the County Board.

Round One of funding was approved by the County Board.

Committee meetings are held quarterly to review progress and plan for future years of fund use.

THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS | SECTORS REPRESENTED

- Treatment Facilities
- Healthcare Systems
- Emergency Room
- Addiction Care
- Pharmacist
- Prevention Experts
- Harm Reduction Experts
- Law Enforcement
- Intervention & Recovery Experts
- Individuals with Lived Experience

ST. LOUIS COUNTY OPIOID REMEDIATION SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE & GOALS

April 2022
Provide a background of opioid settlement and introductions of committee members.
May 2022
Present an overview of St. Louis County work, local data trends, and needs.
June 2022
Develop community needs survey.
July & August 2022
Conduct community needs survey; Committee will not meet.
September 2022
Report survey results, identify next steps, and strategies.
Offer presentation during County Board Workshop. Notice to Municipalities (State Agreement, Section E).
October & November 2022
Develop and issue RFPs.
December 2022
Review RFP applications.
January 2023
Make recommendations to the County Board for approval.
2023 & beyond
Monitor impact and adjust strategies for future investments.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Through using the framework from the Colorado Health Institute, the advisory committee developed and distributed a survey (see Appendix 3) to community members with professional and lived experience. The survey asked respondents to determine **how they would allocate a hypothetical $100 million to address the opioid crisis**. This survey was conducted electronically using the online survey tool Survey123 (ArcGIS).

Survey Categories
Harm Reduction, Treatment & Recovery, Prevention, and Criminal Justice.
Detailed descriptions of each strategy are included in the survey in Appendix 3.

Who took the survey?

Processing Survey Responses
The advisory committee reviewed the community survey responses, worked through additional prioritization of the survey results based off work and lived experience, and established priority strategies reflected on the next page.

FUNDING ALLOCATION BASED OFF SURVEY RESULTS

The results from the survey (shown below) were used to create a strategic plan for funding allocation that was presented to the County Board and, additionally, informed our Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

Priority Rank	Strategy	Recommended Percentage of Funding Allocation	Category
1	Housing Support	25.9%	Criminal Justice
2	Overdose Prevention	13.3%	Harm Reduction
3	Syringe Exchange	11.0%	Harm Reduction
4	Peer Services	10,8%	Treatment & Recovery
5	School Education & Training	10.1%	Prevention
6	Community Education / Reduce Stigma	5.5%	Prevention
7	Post-Incarceration Programs	5.1%	Criminal Justice
8	Harm Reduction Education	3.7%	Harm Reduction
9	Criminal Justice-Based Treatment & Recovery	2.9%	Criminal Justice
10	Collaboration with Existing Efforts & Community	2.7%	Prevention
11	Family Support for Individuals in the Criminal Justice System	2.2%	Criminal Justice
12	Family Support	2.2%	Harm Reduction
13	Expand Programming	2.2%	Treatment & Recovery

2022 REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) PROCESS

The community survey resulted in the following priorities:

1) ENRICH BROAD **PREVENTION** STRATEGIES FOCUSING ON YOUTH PROGRAMS THAT ARE TRAUMA INFORMED, USING A CULTURALLY SENSITIVE AND EQUITABLE APPROACH

2) BROAD COMMUNITY **STIGMA REDUCTION** COMMUNITY-BASED EDUCATION FOR COMMUNITIES, FAMILIES, AND YOUTH

3) **HARM REDUCTION** – INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, SYRINGE EXCHANGES, OVERDOSE PREVENTION, AND PEER RECOVERY SUPPORTS AND SERVICES.

+ FOCUS ON **JUSTICE-INVOLVED POPULATIONS**
+ **TRANSITIONS** FROM JAIL

See Appendix 4 for the full RFP.

RFP Review
Applications were scored based on their ability to address the priorities, the details of their plans, their ability to demonstrate innovation, their ability to measure impact, and their geographical location using a scoring matrix (see Appendix 5).

Follow Up Interviews
Once proposals were selected to move forward in the process, follow up interviews were conducted. Questions were geared specifically toward each proposal and responses were brought back to the review team to aid in making informed decisions.

FUNDED PROJECTS-ROUND I MARCH 2023-FEBRUARY 2024

Rural Aids Action Network
RFP Priority: Harm Reduction
Proposal Highlights:
- Hire a position to be focused on northern, rural parts of St. Louis County
- New position responsibilities include naloxone and fentanyl test strips distribution, naloxone training, fentanyl test strips training, connecting to resources, outreach events, HIV/Hep C testing

Recovery Alliance Duluth
RFP Priority: Harm Reduction
Proposal Highlights:
- Add 1.5 Peer Support Specialists to serve north & south St. Louis County
- Expand services – further their reach & services they provide
- Identify & address barriers with community partners

Housing for Inmates
RFP Priority: Harm Reduction
Proposal Highlights:
- Provide housing in Duluth for formerly incarcerated individuals
- Prioritize community partnerships for wrap-around care
- Provide harm reduction resources & reduce barriers to stable housing
- Offer Health Realization programming

CHUM
Service Region: Duluth/South St. Louis County
RFP Priority: Harm Reduction
Proposal Highlights:
- Expand street outreach by hiring one new Peer Support Specialist (RAD) & one street outreach specialist
- Develop Stepping On Up Authorized Outdoor Living Zones (April-Oct)

United Way
RFP Priority: Enriched Broad Prevention – Youth Focused
Proposal Highlights:
- Expand Lunch Buddies Mentoring Program – a trauma-informed youth program that matches local elementary school aged youth in need of additional positive adult role models
- Anticipated short-term impacts: improve school attendance, mood, and self-esteem for children in the program

Wellbeing Development
RFP Priority: Harm Reduction
Proposal Highlights:
- Proposal includes expanding harm reduction programs through use of evidence-informed, person-centered behavioral health approaches that include a recovery residence with co-located support services

YWCA Duluth
RFP Priority: Broad based prevention and Harm Reduction
Proposal Highlights:
- Provide transitional housing to young moms
- Naloxone distribution to clients, staff, and community
- Offer peer recovery supports through Health Realization programming

Communication Plan and Strategies
St. Louis County staff are in the process of planning coordination of a long-term communication plan to be focused on:
- Harm Reduction
- Stigma Reduction
- Youth Prevention

RESOURCES

Colorado Health Institute Opioid Crisis Response Blueprint
https://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/sites/default/files/file_attachments/Opioid%20Response%20Blueprint%203-24-2020.pdf

Johns Hopkins Opioid Principles
https://opioidprinciples.jhsph.edu/the-principles/

State of Minnesota Attorney General Overview of Settlements
https://www.ag.state.mn.us/Opioids/default.asp

State of Minnesota Department of Health St. Louis County Substance Use and Overdose Profile
https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/opioids/countyprofiles/stlouis.html

State of Minnesota Local Public Health Guide to Spending Opioid Settlement Funds
https://www.health.mn.gov/communities/opioids/settlefunds.html

State of Minnesota Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)
https://www.ag.state.mn.us/opioids/docs/MN_MoA.pdf

BrownGreer, PLC - National Opioid Settlement Program Beneficiary Portal
https://www.nationalopioidofficialsettlement.com/

Substance Use Response Team (SURT) at Duluth Police Department Data
https://duluthmn.gov/police/community-policing/partnerships/

St. Louis County Death Certificate Data from Office of Vital Records
https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/vitalrecords/death.html

APPENDICES

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 1, 2022

CONTACT: Dana Kazel, Communications Manager
218-725-5049 (office) • 218-591-2219 (cell)

County recruits community experts to serve on advisory committee regarding use of opioid lawsuit settlement funds

As a result of the national settlement of a class action lawsuit involving several prescription opioid manufacturers and distributors, the state of Minnesota is estimated to receive $300 million over the next 18 years; and of that, St. Louis County will be receiving the fifth largest local share. To determine how to prioritize use of these funds for most meaningful long-term impact, the County is establishing an advisory committee and is seeking community expert involvement.

Ideal candidates from the public include those with professional and/or lived experience relating to opioids including physicians, pharmacists, families impacted by the opioid epidemic, organizations working in peer support and prevention efforts and the provider community. The Opioid Remediation Advisory Committee also includes appointees from the County Board, as well as staff from Public Health and Human Services, the Sheriff's Office and County Attorney's Office.

The advisory committee will be asked to offer guidance on use of the settlement funds across broad categories including prevention, criminal justice, treatment and recovery, and harm reduction.

The exact amount the County will receive is still being finalized. Under the terms of the settlement, 25% of funds designated for the State of Minnesota will be used by the state, and 75% will be distributed to counties and cities within Minnesota.

"While this will be a significant amount of money for the county, we also know it covers just a fraction of the costs incurred and the damage caused," said County Board Chair Paul McDonald, who called for the creation of the Opioid Remediation Subcommittee at the first Board meeting of 2022. "We need to be strategic in determining how best to invest these funds to help people and communities that have been so devastated by opioids."

Citizens willing to serve on the advisory committee should fill out an application, which can be found online at stlouiscountymn.gov/clerk and clicking on the link to Citizen Advisory Committee. People may request a printed application by calling County Board Clerk Phil Chapman at 218-726-2385.

The Advisory Committee is expected to meet during evening hours. Meetings for the time being will be virtual.

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Revised 1-2006
APP-CACCB

Application

Citizen Advisory Committee,Commission, or Board

St. Louis County

Return Application to:

Clerk of the County Board
100 N. 5th Avenue West, #214
Duluth, MN 55802-1293

OR e-mail at: chapmanp@stlouiscountymn.gov

Note: Please mail or deliver your completed application to the Clerk of the Board at the adjacent address. Your application will be on file for approximately one year.

Application For:

Please list the committee, commission, or board for which you are applying

Applicant Name:

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms.

Last Name First Name Middle Initial

Home Address:

Street

City State Zip

Telephone/Fax/
E-Mail:

Home Work Fax E-mail Address

1. How long have you lived in St. Louis County?

2. List other community groups, boards, committees, or commissions for which you are, or have been a member?

3. What interests you about becoming a member of the committee, commission or board for which you are applying?

4. Please describe your education, employment, areas of interest, and expertise.

5. Please provide additional information you believe is important in considering your application?

6. Please list two references including name, address, and telephone number.

I have sufficient time to devote to this responsibility and will attend the required meetings if appointed.

Signature: Date

THANK YOU!

Office Use Only

Date Received

Date Entered

Commissioner District

Appointed: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Committee/Board/Commission:

Appointment Date

Term End Date

Retention Date

St. Louis County Opioid Settlement Funding Prioritization Survey

St. Louis County Public Health, in collaboration with the St. Louis County Opioid Remediation Sub-Committee, is seeking community input on how to prioritize the spending of opioid settlement funds. St. Louis County will be receiving $10 million over the next fifteen years due to the opioid settlement proceeds. The survey consists of a set of programmatic strategies within four opioid intervention focus areas: Prevention, Harm Reduction, Criminal Justice, and Treatment & Recovery.

As a survey participant, we are asking how you would *allocate a total of $10 million between the 20 different programming strategies listed below*. Additionally, the survey includes a write-in portion in which you can allocate funding toward an area not already listed. We ask that you please stay within the $10 million allotment so we can ensure responses and prioritized strategies are accurately represented.

As you complete the survey, the dollars you allocate will be tracked and summed within each intervention area in a "Total" box, i.e., Prevention Total, Criminal Justice Total, etc. You do not need to enter any dollars into these boxes. Furthermore, the total dollars you allocate for all 20 strategies will be summed at the end of the survey instrument in the "Total Dollars Allocated" box.

Do you live or work in St. Louis County?*

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

What is your primary professional area of expertise?*

- [ ] Education, Health & Public Health: Health care, prevention, public health, education
- [ ] Intervention & Recovery: Substance use disorder treatment (SUD), SUD recovery, harm reduction, behavioral health

- [ ] Law Enforcement: Law enforcement professional
- [ ] Local Government or City Official
- [ ] Tribal Council/Government
- [ ] Other Community partner

Do you have lived experience with substance use? Have you or your family been impacted by substance use?*

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Prevention

Please enter in the dollar amount you would like allocated to each of the strategies below.

School Education & Training*

Funding and support for schools to be trained on implementation of purchased curriculums, such as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Healthy Positive Outcomes, Substance Use Disorders, and Positive Community Norms; Integrate targeted outreach within existing school departments focused on high-risk priority groups and vulnerable families

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Medical & Provider Professional Training*

Coordinate trainings and continuing education for medical providers and other professionals around stigma reduction for all substance use disorders, including opioid use disorders; Elevate screening tools for adolescents in primary health care settings; partner with colleges to educate the future healthcare workforce about substance use disorders and the continuum of care

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Secondary Prevention Focused on Children and Families*

Expand capacity in programs targeting families impacted by substance use disorders, such as the North Star Families Program and the Zero to Three County Treatment Court Programs for families, with a focus on increasing reunification rates and safe placement options; Provide focused education and outreach for children in foster care whose primary reason for placement is parental substance use

Community Education & Reduce Stigma*

Increase public outreach and education, with a focus on stigma reduction, to improve understanding about what substance use disorders are, who is affected, and when to intervene; Establish clear connection between substance use disorder and mental illness for providers and community members

Expand Safe Storage and Medication Disposal*

Promote safe storage and disposal options for medications and prescriptions; Expand locations of drop boxes to be more accessible to all

Collaboration with Existing Efforts and Community Partners*

Collaborate and strengthen current prevention efforts with community partners and coalitions, such as the HRSA grant in Bois Forte, Traditional Native Games and Story Telling, University of Minnesota of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, AICHO, CAPE, Community Solutions, EPARC

Prevention Total

Dollars you have allocated to Prevention

Criminal Justice

Please enter in the dollar amount you would like allocated to each of the strategies below.

Criminal Justice-based Treatment and Recovery*

Integration and strengthening of Substance Use Disorder, mental health and primary care services and treatments throughout the criminal justice system

Post-Incarceration Programs*

Improve post-release programming for community integration; Continued care and transition services for individuals after release; Increase and improve assistance to reentering the workforce

Housing Support*

Increase access to temporary or semi-permanent housing for individuals navigating the criminal justice system

Family Support for Individuals in the Criminal Justice System*

Implement the Minnesota Model Jail Practices Learning Community to improve parent-child relationships, reduce recidivism, increase child wellbeing, and improve public safety by promoting and expanding services in local jails and communities to support incarcerated people and their children

Criminal Justice Total

TREATMENT & RECOVERY

Please enter in the dollar amount you would like allocated to each of the strategies below.

Expand Programming*

Increase Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) opportunities by improving access to telehealth, and utilizing mobile clinics. Expand gender-specific MAT programs; Implement or expand MAT programs in outpatient and inpatient facilities countywide with a specific focus on rural St. Louis County

Increase Transportation Access*

Address transportation needs for individuals seeking Medication Assisted Treatment

Peer Services*

Strengthen existing and implement new peer support interventions across St. Louis County; Secure long-term funding for program sustainability

Address Parental Substance Use*

Expand of child supportive services for individuals seeking outpatient treatment; Create inpatient treatment opportunities that are supportive environments for individuals with children

Behavioral Health Workforce Support*

Support for and expansion of workforce; Provide education for upcoming workforce; address barriers of staffing shortages; Improve workforce retention through supporting livable wages to keep a healthy behavioral health, treatment, and recovery workforce

Treatment & Recovery Total

Dollars you have allocated to Treatment & Recovery

HARM REDUCTION

Please enter in the dollar amount you would like allocated to each of the strategies below.

Syringe Exchange*

Expand existing syringe exchange programs including disposal

Family Support*

Support services for children and families affected by substance use disorders, including training for professionals such as teachers, law enforcement, and others

HIV and Hep C Testing*

Improve access to HIV and Hep C testing through pop-up clinics; Distribute harm reduction materials and resources such as, Narcan, Fentanyl test strips, Needles, local treatment options, and safe use educations; Focus on populations with barriers to traditional health care settings

Overdose Prevention*

Increase access to harm reduction materials, such as: Narcan, Fentanyl test strips, safe use education materials; increase access to proven effective and promising overdose prevention practices that are being utilized in other counties and states

Harm Reduction Education*

Expand harm reduction education in collaboration with local coalitions and community partners; Implement stigma reduction methods, such as: Shatterproof, Words Matter Pledge, Media partnerships; Increase employer outreach and support for employees

Harm Reduction Total

Dollars you have allocated to Harm Reduction

Total Dollars Allocated

The total dollars you have allocated to the 21 strategies above

OTHER

Please list any additional strategies not listed above and a dollar amount you would allocate to it

Other Intervention Areas

Saint Louis County

Public Health and Human Service Department – www.stlouiscountymn.gov

Linnea Mirsch
PHHS Director

Request for Proposal (RFP)

ST. LOUIS COUNTY- OPIOID REMEDIATION PROJECT

1. **Date:** 11/1/2022

2. **Saint Louis County Contact(s):**

2.1 Name/Title: Jana Blomberg, Public Health Program Coordinator, St Louis County
Phone: 218- 471-7613
E-mail: blombergj@stlouiscountymn.gov

2.2 Name/Title: Abby Schaefer
Phone: 218- 725-5015
E-mail: schaefera@stlouiscountymn.gov

3. **Proposal Description:**

3.1 Geographic area to be served:
Any area within St. Louis County; St. Louis County Opioid Remediation Subcommittee asks that proposals take into consideration the communities and race/ethnicity most-at risk and/or impacted by Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and any co-occurring substance use disorder/Mental Health (SUD/MH) conditions.

3.2 **Purpose/Statement of Need:**
Background: In the summer of 2021, national settlements were reached with opioid distributors McKesson, Cardinal Health, and AmerisourceBergen and opioid manufacturer Johnson & Johnson. Under the settlements, the distributors will pay up to $21 billion over eighteen years, and Johnson & Johnson will pay up to $5 billion over up to nine years. Minnesota's share of the total amount depends in large part on the degree to which Minnesota counties and cities choose to participate in the settlements. According to the Minnesota Attorney General's Office, Minnesota's maximum share of the total amount is over $300 million. St. Louis County will receive the 5th largest settlement over the 18-year period, approximately $11.2 million. In January 2022, the St. Louis County Board Chair called for the Opioid Remediation Settlement Funds Subcommittee to be created, appointed 3 commissioners as well as the Sheriff, County Attorney and Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) Director. The Board Chair also requested a

call for applicants to serve on this expert panel in which 21 community members responded, representing Law Enforcement, Medical Community, Providers, Harm Reduction, Peer Recovery and families and individuals directly impacted by the opioid use crisis.

The Opioid Remediation Subcommittee: The purpose of the Opioid Remediation Subcommittee is to make recommendations on the distribution of opioid settlement funds and it is intended to support positive long-term impacts in the areas of prevention and harm reduction. The focus of this subcommittee is to provide funding recommendations to the County Board.

Through an intersection across broad stakeholder input, subcommittee member input, County Board input and best practices, the Opioid Remediation Subcommittee came up with three initial priorities to recommend to the board for an initial distribution of settlement funds.

These initial priorities for this RFP follow the Johns Hopkins Principles for Local Government and will focus on prevention and expanding harm reduction programs. Further description and examples of priority work can be found in the documents linked under resources in section 3.3. Subsequent year awards will incorporate other priorities, including a focus on the justice-involved population and the transition from jail.

The priorities include:
1) Enriched, **broad prevention strategies,** focusing on youth programs that are trauma informed, culturally sensitive and equitable approach
2) Broad **community stigma reduction** community-based education for communities, families, and youth
3) **Harm reduction** – syringe exchanges, overdose prevention, peer recovery supports and services.

To directly address these issues, the Opioid remediation Subcommittee is inviting community-based organizations within St. Louis County and internal St. Louis County departments to submit proposals for 1 year of funding (March 1, 2023 – February 29, 2024) that address the above priorities within St. Louis County. These projects or initiatives can build on existing programs but need to demonstrate how they will specifically address one of the identified priorities. Initial funding will be awarded to a limited number of organizations to allow for a targeted and impactful response. The first year is considered base year funding with the intent that future funding may be available for those projects that are able to show quantifiable results and impact in the initial funding year. These funds

cannot be used to supplant current funding that an organization has already received.

3.3 Services/Resources to be Developed:
The Opioid Remediation Subcommittee is requesting proposals that target populations in communities throughout St. Louis County that have been most impacted by substance use disorder and the opioid epidemic. Each proposal does not need to propose to serve all of St. Louis County but needs to (1) clearly identify why the organization is positioned to successfully implement the proposal for a specific community or geographic area; (2) detailed background of the evidence-based or practice-informed program or practice being proposed.

Resources:
Primer on Spending Funds from the Opioid Litigation – from Johns Hopkins

https://opioidprinciples.jhsph.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Primer-on-Spending-Funds.pdf

MN Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement

https://www.ag.state.mn.us/opioids/docs/MN_MoA.pdf

Evidence-Based Strategies for Prevention Opioid Overdose: *What's Working in the United States*

https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/pubs/2018-evidence-based-strategies.pdf

3.4 Client population to be served:
Project proposal must (1) be implemented within St. Louis County and serve residents within St. Louis County; (2 clearly demonstrate how the project will support and serve individuals affected by one or more of the priorities described above.

4. Scope of Services:

4.1 Service Summary- We are seeking applications that address the above priorities through innovative, promising practice or evidence-informed approaches focused on **ONE** of these three areas below.

4.1.1 Enriched, broad prevention strategies, focusing on youth programs that are trauma informed, culturally sensitive and equitable approach; or

4.1.2 Broad community stigma reduction community-based education for communities, families, and youth; or

4.3.1 Harm reduction – Strategies can include, but are not limited to, syringe exchanges, overdose prevention, peer recovery supports and services, with a dedicated focus on individuals with an OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions.

Further description and examples of priority work can be found in the documents linked under resources in section 3.3.

4.2 Essential Project Proposal Requirements

4.2.1 Proposals must include (1) a detailed description of your plan along with a timeline of activities; (2) the timeline should include planning, training, implementation and impact evaluation efforts; (3) an evaluation plan that includes measurable program outcomes focused on quantifiable results and impact.

5. Financial:

5.1 Funding is determined by the County.

5.1.1 Source

☐ County Levy Funds ☐Grant ☒ Allocation

5.1.2 Contract Maximum Amount (if applicable)
$340,000 - Initial funding this round will be awarded to a limited number of St. Louis County organizations to allow for a targeted and impactful, with an emphasis on communities most at risk and/or impacted by OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions. Potential contract renewal(s) for subsequent year(s) based on measurable performance outcomes and quantifiable results and impact.

6. Timeline:

6.1 **Due Date** for proposal submission	**11/22/2022**.
6.2 Target date for completion of follow-up **interviews** (if required)	**12/13/2022**.
6.3 Target date for notifying proposed projects of **selection & recommendation to the board**	**12/20/2022**.
6.4 Target date for **County Board Approval** of contracts	**02/01/2023**
6.5 Target date **contract begins**	**03/01/2023**

7. Provider Response:

If your organization is interested in submitting a proposal, please submit one (1) copy of your response to this proposal, providing *at a minimum* the information requested below (**Section 7.1 through 7.7**) by 4:30pm on **11/22/2022**

At the top of your proposal please clearly indicate that you are requestion funds for the St. Louis County Opioid Settlement Funds.

7.1 Organization (Maximum 500 words)
- 7.1.1 Organization name and address
- 7.1.2 Type of organization
- 7.1.3 Number of years in business
- 7.1.4 Vision, mission and values of the organization
- 7.1.5 Describe the work of the organization

7.2. Personnel (Maximum 250 words)

7.2.1 Provide name, educational and experience background, and other qualifications of persons who would provide services indicated and oversee this project.

7.2.2 If applicable, provide a list of the members of the Board of Directors, their qualifications, and years of service

7.3. Experience (Maximum 500 words)

7.3.1 Provide a general description of your organization's relevant activities over the past three (3) years that align with the scope of your proposal, outlining specific ways you have effectively engaged with this work in the past.

7.4. Proposal (Maximum 1,000 words)

7.4.1 State which of the three priorities described above your proposal addresses.

7.4.2 Describe how you plan to address this priority. Please include a detailed description of your plan along with a timeline of services, including training, implementation and impact evaluation efforts.

7.4.3 Please include a reference list if you are proposing an evidence-based practice. We welcome promising based practices for culturally specific programs to be included in your proposal.

7.4.4 Describe how you will measure the effectiveness and impact of the project throughout the life of the project. The annual reporting that will be required must include information on the expenditures funded with the Opioid Settlement Funds, including details on programs or services provided. Required reporting components will include organization contact information, information on funded service/programs, and outcomes for the activity/service provided.
Additional reporting requirements are anticipated from the Minnesota Department of Human Services and will be shared with funded proposals once received.

7.5 Supplemental Questions (Maximum 500 words)

7.5.1 Proposals will be considered that serve either the entire County, or a specific region or community. What geographical area will your agency serve? How are communities that are-most at risk or impacted by OUD, and any co-occurring SUD/MH condition, considered in this proposal? How does your proposal directly support individuals most disproportionally impacted?

7.5.2 What is the anticipated short-term impact (6-12 months)? What is the anticipated long-term impact (12+ months)? Please provide an explanation for your answer.

7.6. Relevant Certifications or Licenses:
Any Purchase of Service provider contracting with the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners is expected to comply with the following requirements:
7.6.1 Data Privacy
7.6.2 Equal Employment Opportunity and Civil Rights Clause
7.6.3 Fair Hearing Appeal
7.6.4 Rehabilitation Act
7.6.5 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

7.7 Budget
Please provide a detailed, preliminary, budget along with justification of how funds will be utilized. Should your proposal be selected, a final budget will be required for contracting purposes.

8. Insurance:
If your proposal is selected for contract, the following insurance must be maintained for the term of the contract: A Certificate of Insurance for each policy must be on file with the St. Louis County Public Health and Human Service Department Contract Services. Each certificate must include a 10-day notice of cancellation non-renewal, or material change to all named and additional insureds.

8.1. General Liability Insurance

8.1.1 $500,000 when the claim is one for death by wrongful act or omission and $500,000 to any claimant in any other case.

8.1.2 $1,500,000 for any number of claims arising out of a single occurrence.

8.1.3 No less than $2,000,000 Aggregate coverage.

8.2 Policy shall include at least premises, operations, completed operations, independent contractors and subcontractors, and contractual liability and environmental liability.

8.3 St. Louis County shall be named as an Additional Insured on a primary and non-contributory basis.

8.4 Business Automobile Liability Insurance
8.4.1 $500,000 for claims for wrongful death and each claimant.
8.4.2 $1,500,000 each occurrence.
8.4.3 No less than $2,000,000 aggregate.
8.4.4 Must cover owned, non-owned and hired vehicles.

8.5 Workers' Compensation

Per statutory requirements, Certificate of Compliance must be executed and filed with St. Louis County.

8.6 Professional Liability Insurance For Licensed Professionals

8.6.1 Provider shall maintain at its sole expense a valid policy of insurance covering professional liability, arising from the acts or omissions of Provider, its agent and employees in the amount of not less than $500,000 per claim and $2,000,000 annual aggregate. This provision applies only in situations where Provider's staff or volunteers are performing licensed professional services under this Agreement.

9. Selection:

All responses will be reviewed by St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services Department along with members from the Opioid Remediation Settlement Funds Committee. Prior to making the final selection, interviews may be scheduled with agency staff and committee volunteers to determine potential fit as a provider of these services. Once proposed projects are selected, recommendation to enter into agreement(s) will be submitted to the County Board of Commissioners for their approval. Once a resolution of Board approval is obtained, contracts can be drafted and executed.

10. Receipt of response:

Your response must include one (1) copy.

11. Submit all proposals electronically by Tuesday, November 22, 2022 at 4:30pm CDT to:

*Jana Blomberg, Public Health Program Coordinator, St. Louis County
blombergj@stlouiscountymn.gov 218-471-7613

Cc:
Abby Schaefer, Contract Services Representative, St. Louis County
schaefera@stlouiscountymn.gov 218- 725-5015

**Any additional questions regarding this proposal should be directed to Jana Blomberg, listed above.*

St. Louis County Public Health & Human Services
Government Services Center
320 West 2nd Street, Suite 6E
Duluth, MN 55802

St. Louis County Opioid Remediation Settlement Funds

2022 Proposal Scoring Matrix

Criteria	3 (Excellent)	2 (Above Average)	1 (Average)	0 (Unsatisfactory)	Score
Proposal clearly addresses **one** of the committee's priories of: 1) Enriched, broad prevention strategies, focusing on youth programs that are trauma informed, culturally sensitive and equitable approach 2) Broad community stigma reduction community-based education for communities, families, and youth 3) Harm reduction – syringe exchanges, overdose prevention, peer recovery supports and services.	**Clearly** identifies how proposal will address **one** of the three priorities Alignment is clear, relevant, and impactful.	**Some** alignment between the proposal and **one** of the three priorities.	The RFP priorities are mentioned, but unclear on how the proposal will address one of the priorities.	Provides no information on how proposal will address one of the priorities.	
Detailed description of the plan, including timeline of services, including training, implementation, impact evaluation effort, and preliminary budget.	**Specific** with **significant** details describing the plan, timeline, training needs, implementation, impact evaluation, and preliminary budget.	Specific with **some** details describing the plan, timeline, training needs, implementation, impact evaluation and preliminary budget.	**General** statement of need but includes no supporting details.	Provides information on proposal only. No description of details.	
The proposal demonstrates (1) serving St. Louis County either the entire county or a specific region of the county, (2) will support and serve individuals affected by one of the priorities described above and (3) takes into consideration the communities and race/ethnicity most at-risk and/or impacted by Opioid Use Disorder and any co-occurring Substance Use Disorder/Mental Health conditions	Proposal **effectively** demonstrates implementation in SLC, supports individuals affected by one of the priorities **and** on race/ethnicity most at-risk and/or impacted by OUD/SUD/MH	Proposal **somewhat** demonstrates implementation in SLC, supports individuals affected by one of the priorities **and** on race/ethnicity most at-risk and/or impacted by OUD/SUD/MH.	The proposal will be implemented within SLC and serve residents in SLC, but does not take into consideration the other elements.	The proposal has a regional scope that includes outside of St. Louis County or does **not** identify service region.	
Innovation is apparent. Activities / strategies are creative and unique. Promising practice or evidence-informed approaches focused on one of the three priorities outlined above.	**Highly** creative, unique and/or innovative. Includes promising practice or evidence-informed approaches. May establish a new, model practice for others.	**Somewhat** creative, unique and/or innovative. May be something done before, but contains some originality. Includes promising practice or evidence-informed approaches.	**Few** components contain creative, unique, or innovative approaches. No mention of promising practice or evidence-informed approaches.	Lacks creativity or innovation. Common request.	
Demonstration of measuring the effectiveness and impact of the project through the outline proposal timeline. Includes anticipated short-term impact (6-12 months) and long-term impact (12+ months). Including an explanation.	**Clearly** describes a measurable evaluation plan, including short-term and long-term impact and explanation.	Evaluation plan includes **some** measurable plan, impacts and explanation.	Evaluation plan includes **few** details on plan, impact and explanation.	No evaluation plan included.	
Overall proposal is clear and logical.	Proposal is **clearly** written. **Logical** alignment between priorities, goals, and activities	Proposal is **somewhat clear. Some** alignment between priorities, goals, and activities.	**Parts** of proposal are **unclear**. **Minimal** alignment between priorities, goals, and activities.	**Proposal is unclear.** There isn't alignment between priorities, goals, and activities.	
Proposal Total Score					

Proposal Title: _____

Proposing Organization: _____

Review Team Member: _____

Do you have a conflict of interest or relationship with the organization submitting the proposal? **Yes** **No**

If yes, please be ready to share with the review team what your relationship is to the organization submitting this proposal.

Additional notes regarding the proposal:

RANKING – please check applicable ranking below with your total score

- ☐ Excellent proposal will rank 14-18
- ☐ Above average proposal will rank 10-14
- ☐ Average proposal will rank 6-10
- ☐ Unsatisfactory proposal will rank 0-6

RECOMMENDATION

☐ **I would definitely recommend funding this project.**

☐ **I would not recommend funding this project.**

☐ **I would recommend a follow up interview with the applicant to provide clarity on the proposal.**

Resolution
of the
Board of County Commissioners
St. Louis County, Minnesota
Adopted on: March 22, 2022 Resolution No. 22-162
Offered by Commissioner: Nelson

Opioid Remediation Advisory Subcommittee Appointments

WHEREAS, As a result of the national settlement of a class action lawsuit involving several prescription opioid manufacturers and distributors, the state of Minnesota is estimated to receive $300 million over the next 18 years; and of that, St. Louis County will be receiving the fifth largest local share; and

WHEREAS, On January 4, 2022, Chair Commissioner McDonald formed the Opioid Remediation Subcommittee to make recommendations on the distribution of settlement proceeds; and

WHEREAS, Chair Commissioner McDonald appointed Commissioners Boyle, Jugovich and Grimm in addition to representations from Public Health and Human Services, the Sheriff's Office and County Attorney's Office and called for an application period to solicit individuals from the Community with professional and/or lived experience relating to opioids; and

WHEREAS, The call for applications was posted by the Clerk of the Board and closed February 25, 2022.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board makes the following twenty (20) appointments to the Opioid Remediation Subcommittee:

Greg Anderson
Katie Bauman
Laura Bennett
Joseph Bianco
Elizabeth Bilden
Heather Blue
Pat Conway
Melissa Dybvig
Beth Elstad
Brandon Hankey
Bryan Johnson
Sherry Johnson
Danielle Jones
Branden Mattson
Jessica McCarthy-Nickila
Jeff Polcher
Lisa Prusak
Susan Purchase
Allison Vanneste
Verne Wagner

Commissioner Nelson moved the adoption of the Resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote:
Yeas – Commissioners Jewell, Boyle, Grimm, Musolf, Nelson, Jugovich and Chair McDonald – 7
Nays – None

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of County Auditor, ss.
County of St. Louis

I, **NANCY NILSEN**, Auditor of the County of St. Louis, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in my office on the 22nd day of March, A.D. 2022, and that this is a true and correct copy.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE at Duluth, Minnesota, this 22nd day of March, A.D., 2022.

NANCY NILSEN, COUNTY AUDITOR

By:
Clerk of the County Board/Deputy Auditor

Resolution
of the
Board of County Commissioners
St. Louis County, Minnesota
Adopted on: April 12, 2022 Resolution No. 22-220
Offered by Commissioner: Boyle

Additional Opioid Remediation Subcommittee Appointment

WHEREAS, As a result of the national settlement of a class action lawsuit involving several prescription opioid manufacturers and distributors, the State of Minnesota is estimated to receive $300 million over the next 18 years; and of that, St. Louis County will be receiving the fifth largest local share; and

WHEREAS, On January 4, 2022, Chair Commissioner McDonald formed the Opioid Remediation Subcommittee to make recommendations on the distribution of settlement proceeds; and

WHEREAS, Initial appointments were approved by the County Board March 22, 2022, (Resolution No. 22-162) and Jennifer Garbow was inadvertently missed in this list.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board appoints Jennifer Garbow to the Opioid Remediation Subcommittee.

Commissioner Boyle moved the adoption of the Resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote:
Yeas – Commissioners Boyle, Grimm, Musolf, Jugovich and Chair McDonald – 5
Nays – None
Absent – Commissioners Jewell and Nelson – 2

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of County Auditor, ss.
County of St. Louis

I, **NANCY NILSEN**, Auditor of the County of St. Louis, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in my office on the 12th day of April, A.D. 2022, and that this is a true and correct copy.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE at Duluth, Minnesota, this 12th day of April, A.D., 2022.

NANCY NILSEN, COUNTY AUDITOR

By:
Clerk of the County Board/Deputy Auditor

Resolution
of the
Board of County Commissioners
St. Louis County, Minnesota
Adopted on: February 7, 2023 Resolution No. 23-100
Offered by Commissioner: Nelson

Opioid Remediation Initial Funding Awards

WHEREAS, As a result of the national settlement of a class action lawsuit involving several prescription opioid manufacturers and distributors, the State of Minnesota is estimated to receive $300 million over the next 18 years, and of that, St. Louis County will be receiving the fifth largest local share; and

WHEREAS, On January 4, 2022, Chair Commissioner McDonald formed the Opioid Remediation Subcommittee to make recommendations on the distribution of settlement proceeds; and

WHEREAS, The Subcommittee worked through needs analysis and evidence-based recommendations over the last nine months, set initial priorities and issued a Request for Proposals for community-based proposals around enriched broad prevention focused on youth and community stigma reduction and harm reduction; and

WHEREAS, Eight proposals were recommended for funding, an initial five that will begin immediately, and a second set of three projects that will begin later this year after additional planning; the term of these contracts is one year from date of execution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to enter into community contracts for up to $1,210,823.24 of the initial opioid allocation litigation proceeds according to eligible uses as specified in Appendix A of the Minnesota Memorandum of Agreement by category referenced below:

Proposals Recommended to Fund – First Round		**Priority Categories**	**Target Communities**	**MOA Category**
Rural Aids Action Network	$144,468.24	Harm Reduction	North; some countywide	H.1, H.3 H.9, H.10
Recovery Alliance Duluth	$283,248	Harm Reduction	North; some countywide	B.2-3, B.6, C.10
Housing for Inmates	$300,000	Harm Reduction	Based South; available to residents countywide	B.1-3
CHUM	$94,150	Harm Reduction	South	B.2, B.10
United Way	$34,000	Enriched Broad Prevention – Youth Focused	North	G.8-9, G.11
Total Amount – First Round	**$855,866.24**			

Resolution No. 23-100
Page 2 of 2

Proposals Recommended to Fund – Second Round				
Media/Outreach (through multiple channels)	$120,000	Prevention/ Community Stigma	Countywide	G.1-3, G.9
Wellbeing Development	$134,957	Prevention/ Community Stigma; Harm Reduction	North	J.5
YWCA Duluth	$100,000	Harm Reduction	South	B.2, E.6, E.8
Total Amount – Second Round	**$354,957**			
Total	**$1,210.823.24**			

RESOLVED FURTHER, That these contracts be consistent with the State-Local Subdivision Agreement, eligibility rules and reporting requirement.

BUDGET REFERENCE:
298-298002-629900

Commissioner Nelson moved the adoption of the Resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote:
Yeas – Commissioners Harala, Grimm, McDonald, Musolf, Nelson, Jugovich and Chair Boyle – 7
Nays – None

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of County Auditor, ss.
County of St. Louis

I, **NANCY NILSEN**, Auditor of the County of St. Louis, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in my office on the 7th day of February, A.D. 2023, and that this is a true and correct copy.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE at Duluth, Minnesota, this 7th day of February, A.D., 2023.

NANCY NILSEN, COUNTY AUDITOR

By:
Clerk of the County Board/Deputy Auditor