

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BRIEFING PAPER
Jefferson County's Local Government Opioid Settlement Funds
January 31, 2023

- For Information x For Discussion/Board Direction Consent to
Place on Business/
Hearing Agenda

Issue: Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners determine a direction and process for the allocation of Jefferson County's local share of Opioid Funds distributed according to the Colorado Opioids Settlement Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU"). These funds are separate from the funds allocated to Region 10, also known as the Gateway to the Rockies Opioid Council (GROC).

The Region 10 Council on plans to use the funds as follows:

Acute SUD Care: \$1,081,210.97 in YR1

To include the full continuum of SUD treatment care potentially including detox and withdrawal management, MOUD, and residential treatment services with a focus on youth services across all three counties.

Recovery Housing: \$460,844.02 in YR1

To include safe, supportive, structured living conditions for people exiting treatment or other transitional periods. High need for housing for excluded populations including LGBTQ+, racial and ethnic minorities, sexual offenders, and violent felons.

Recovery Community Organization: \$347,405.49 in YR1

The development of an independent non-profit organization, led by people in recovery who will provide peer-based recovery services and mentorship, recovery-focused policy, and hold community education and outreach events. We hope to have a physical location for the RCO in either Gilpin or Clear Creek County to better support our rural community.

Harm Reduction: \$496,293.56 in YR1

Program to potentially include fentanyl strips, naloxone and naloxone dispersal training, needle exchanges, support for harm reduction staff, and a plan for successfully distributing these services through Jefferson County and into the rural mountain communities of Gilpin and Clear Creek.

Co-Responders: \$655,816.49 in YR1

The program will provide a collaborative approach to behavioral crisis response that seeks to reduce harm and facilitate alternatives to arrest by providing police-mental health professional co-response to calls for service involving persons in crisis. We are also considering the use of peers in this role.

The initial local Opioid Funds received by Jefferson County are \$476,695.66. Additional payments will be received annually through 2031, with the next payment scheduled for approximately July 2023. Future annual payments will be smaller than this initial

amount, with an anticipated \$252,623.87 payment in 2023.

The Board of County Commissioners has the authority to determine how the County will use the local Opioid Funds so long as they are used for “Approved Purposes,” which generally relate to addressing the impacts of opioid use. The county is allowed to use up to 10% of these funds for related administrative costs.

Background: Opioid Funds are a result of the settlement of lawsuits brought by local governments, including Jefferson County, and State Attorney Generals against manufacturers and distributors of opioids. The Colorado Attorney General and local governments agreed in the MOU to the terms of distribution of the settlement funds in Colorado. The Opioid Funds present a unique opportunity to foster innovative state, regional, and local partnerships to abate the opioid epidemic. Under the MOU, the parties agreed that each local government could determine whether to accept the local portion of Opioid Funds for local use or to dedicate such funds to the regional share of Opioid Funds overseen by GROC. The Board of County Commissioners determined on July 19, 2022, that Jefferson County would directly receive and manage its local share of Opioid Funds.

Discussion: There are seven key areas in which the funds may be used, which are listed below. The purpose of the discussion today is not to make decisions, but to provide some high-level direction to staff. We would like to find out how each commissioner would rank each of the key areas in terms of priority, one, two or three, with one being the highest priority and three being the lowest priority. We would also like to learn if there are specific projects or types of projects that you already have in mind for the funding.

- Treatment
- Prevention
- Services for Children
- First Responders
- Community Leadership
- Staffing and Training
- Research

Once we have this information, we will bring back a recommendation for further discussion.

Fiscal Impact:

- Year of impact: 2023
- TABOR impact: N/A
- Existing grant or project: No
- New grant or project: New Projects
- Requested in the adopted budget: No
- Ongoing or one-time: One-time
- General Fund impact: Yes
- Staffing impact: None
- ARPA impact: No
- Match requirements: No
- Mandate/Contractual obligation: None.

Revenue Limits Impact: yes no

SPA Review: Supports, no concerns.

Facilities Review: No Impact

BIT Review: No Impact

Fleet Review: No Impact

Human Resources Review (new FTE only):

Recommendations: Staff recommends that the BCC provide direction to help develop a recommendation for the allocation of Jefferson County's share of Opioid Funds.

Originator:

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Contacts for Additional Information: