



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request



Requested Meeting Date: May 13, 2025

Title of Item: Aitkin County Public Health Opioid Funding Request

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|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY | Action Requested: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;"><i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i></div> | <input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing* |
| Submitted by: Kelli Crowther, PHN, Opioid Coordinator | | Department: H&HS |
| Presenter (Name and Title): | | Estimated Time Needed: |
| Summary of Issue: Final approval of funding application on behalf of Aitkin County Public Health. This application was reviewed and unanimously approved by Opioid Subcommittee on April 23th, 2025. Project: Cannabis and Tobacco Compliance and Retailer Education Overview: Funding will be used to complete and enhance tobacco checks to licensed tobacco and/or cannabis retailers in Aitkin County. Education will be provided to all retailers, including additional education for retailers selling licensed products to under-aged buyers. The funding requested will be utilized for purchasing licensed products, PH staff time and mileage. Funding is to be utilized over a 3-year timeline. | | |
| Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments: | | |
| Recommended Action/Motion: Approve \$15,150 paid quarterly over 3 years funded with Opioid Settlement Funds to Public Health. | | |
| Financial Impact: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><div><i>Is there a cost associated with this request?</i></div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</div><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</div></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><div><i>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$</i></div><div></div></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><div><i>Is this budgeted?</i></div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</div><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</div><div><i>Please Explain:</i></div></div> <div>Opioid Settlement Funds will be used to support this project.</div> | | |

Aitkin County Health and Human Services

04/15/2025

Contact:

Please direct all correspondence to the contact information provided below.

Kelli Crowther, PHN

Aitkin County Public Health

((218) 927-7267

Kelli.crowther@aitkincountymn.gov



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Aitkin County

2025

Opiod Settlement (OS) Funding Application

Section 1: Applicant Information

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Date | 04/18/2025 |
| Organization Name | Aitkin County Public Health |
| Street Address | 204 First St NW |
| Mailing Address if different | |
| City, State, Zip Code | Aitkin, MN 56431 |
| County | Aitkin |

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Primary Contact | Brea Hamdorf |
| Phone | 218-927-7256 |
| Email | Brea.hamdorf@aitkincountymn.gov |

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Financial Contact | Carli Goble |
| Tax ID/SSN | |
| Phone | |
| Email | Carli.goble@aitkincountymn.gov |

Information provided in this application may be used for promotional materials. This includes, but is not limited to: fact sheets, Minnesota Department of Health reports, newsletters, social media posts, and media releases. Additional information may be requested by Aitkin County Public Health e.g. a release might be requested for individuals in photographs.

☒ By checking this box, you acknowledge and accept the statement above.

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| PROJECT NAME: | Cannabis and Tobacco Compliance and Retailer Education |
| Brief Overview | Funding will be used to complete and enhance tobacco checks to licensed tobacco and/or cannabis retailers in Aitkin County. Education will be provided to all retailers, including additional education for retailers selling licensed products to under-aged buyers. The funding requested will be utilized for purchasing licensed products, PH staff time and mileage. Funding is to be utilized over a 3-year timeline. |
| Funding Request | \$15,150.00 |

04/08/2025

Section 2: Project Category

Each project/request must fall within one or more of the following mitigation categories. Select one or more of the categories that best match your project.

Treatment

☐ Support treatment of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and any co-occurring Substance Use Disorder or Mental Health condition through evidenced based or evidence informed programs or strategies.

Examples may include:

- Treat OUD
- Support People in Recovery
- Connect People who need help connecting to the services they need (connections to care i.e. transportation)
- Address the needs of criminal justice-involved persons
- Address the needs of the perinatal population, caregivers, and families including babies with neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome
- Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) such as methadone, buprenorphine or naloxone.

Prevention

☒ Support efforts to prevent over-prescribing and ensure appropriate prescribing and dispensing of opioids through evidenced based or evidenced informed programs. Support efforts to discourage misuse of opioids through evidence based or evidenced informed programs. Examples may include:

- Training for health care providers
- Continuing Medical Education on appropriate prescribing of opioids
- Media campaigns to prevent misuse
- Funding evidence-based prevention programs in schools
- Upstream education on the harm of other addictive and harmful substances such as alcohol, tobacco or marijuana.

Harm Reduction

☒ Harm reduction is a set of ideas and interventions that seek to reduce the harms associated with both drug use and ineffective, racialized drug policies. Harm reduction stands in stark contrast to a punitive approach to problematic drug use—it is based on acknowledging the dignity and humanity of people who use drugs and bringing them into a community of care in order to minimize negative consequences and promote optimal health and social inclusion. Examples of Harm Reduction may include:

- Support Services for children and families affected by substance use disorders.
- Overdose Prevention including distribution of Narcan, Fentanyl test strips, safe use education materials and increased access to proven effective and promising overdose prevention practices utilized in other counties and states.
- Community education to reduce the stigma around OUD

Research and Training

☐ Support opioid abatement research and training. Examples may include:

- Funding for staff training or networking programs and services to improve the capability of government, community, and not for profit entities to abate the opioid crisis.
- Monitoring, surveillance, data collection and evaluation of programs and strategies described in this opioid abatement strategy list.
- Research non-opioid treatment of chronic pain.
- Research on novel harm reduction and prevention efforts such as the provision of fentanyl test strips.

Section 3: Guiding Principles

Each project/request must be guided by the following five principles set forth by the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Please indicate which of these principals apply to your program. You do not have to meet all of the guiding principles.

- ☒ Spend Money to Save Lives.
 - OS dollars will be used on a specific project and not to fill budget gaps or shortfalls in other programs. OS dollars are being used to expand on an existing evidenced based program or initiative.
- ☐ Use Evidence to Guide Spending
 - There is evidence to support expansion of an existing program. This could include an initiative or program that was not successful but there are learned outcomes that could be successful.
- ☒ Invest in Youth Prevention
 - This program supports, children, youth and families in effective programs.
- ☒ Focus on Racial Equity
 - This program serves a specific demographic or underserved population in our community. Check one.

| | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Socioeconomic | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans | <input type="checkbox"/> Other_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors | <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless | <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Youth | <input type="checkbox"/> Black/Indigenous/People of Color | |
- ☒ Develop a Fair and Transparent Process for Spending Funds
 - There is a process in place for clear and transparent use of OS dollars

Please Note:

It is the Applicant's sole responsibility to keep clear and detailed records that demonstrate the OS dollars requested were used for the amount and purpose(s) outlined in the initial application. Aitkin County Public Health and/or the Minnesota Attorney Generals Office, reserves the right to audit the Applicants records at any time without prior notice.

Section 4: Work plan and Goals

Give a detailed description of your project work plan and goal. List your goals related to the project. Include planned activities to meet these goals, intended timeline and responsible individual(s). Add rows as needed.

Infographic materials about FDA(Tobacco) and/or OCM (cannabis) approved products will be reviewed and enhanced, as needed, to help facilitate retailer education and discussion. Public Health will coordinate with local youth and law enforcement (as schedule allows) to complete checks on licensed retailers. Youth, under the guidance and observation of staff/ LE, will attempt to purchase licensed products. If no sales are made, retailers will be thanked for doing their part in reducing youth access. Information on continued education and FDA approved licensed products will be provided to all retailers. If sales are made to the youth, education will be provided to clerks and managers on reading IDs and well as the laws regarding minimum age to purchase licensed products. The goal of the project is to enhance the education of retail staff and reduce youth access to licensed products.

Retailer checks will be broken into 4 categories: Tobacco Congratulate and Education, Cannabis Congratulate and Educate, Tobacco Compliance, Cannabis Compliance. Anticipated timeline for

check: Tobacco C&E = 3 days; Cannabis C&E = 1 day; Tobacco check = 2 days; Cannabis check = 1 day.

Products that are purchased during these checks will be utilized as educational tools for parents, communities and other youth during events, discussions, health fairs, classes, etc. The general public often is unaware of the "new" look of products and devices and do not recognize when youth are in possession of and/or using them.

A variety of studies suggest and conclude that "active enforcement of minimum legal age laws using random, unannounced compliance checks of tobacco retailers and sanctions for violations tend to reduce underage sales, and as a result, probably reduces the availability of tobacco to underage individuals from commercial tobacco retailers. Furthermore, additional measures such as targeted retailer education about sales laws, community education and mobilization, and mass media campaigns appear to bolster the effects of enforcement activities on increasing retailer compliance." Another study notes "to prevent underaged adolescents from smoking and becoming adult smokers, the availability of cigarettes needs to be limited. Results demonstrated that compliance checks, where sales clerks routinely ask young-looking customers for their IDs, is effective in limiting availability by decreasing rates of cigarette sales to underaged adolescents."

| ACTIVITIES TO ACCOMPLISH GOAL(S) | TIMELINE | RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL(S) |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| Review FDA licensed tobacco products & create infographic | April- May 2025 | Brea Hamdorf |
| Coordinate availability dates with ACSO/ youth | May 2025, August 2025, Spring/ Summer 2026, Spring/ Summer 2027 | Brea Hamdorf |
| Retailer checks and education | Spring/summer of each year | Brea Hamdorf |
| Processing of violation of sale (if compliance check) | | Aitkin County Sheriff Office |
| Follow-up with education for retailers selling to underaged buyers | Ongoing – within 10 days of notification of compliance check | Brea Hamdorf |
| Reviewing retailer contact information and relicensing information. Providing any education material about licensed products. | January of each year | Aitkin County Auditor Office |

Section 5:Evaluation:

If your request is \$25,000 or more please complete this section. If it is under \$25,000 you do not need to complete this section. What would indicate to you that this project was successful? How will you measure progress or change? Describe your anticipated impact(s). Add rows as needed.

| Project Outcomes | How will you measure these changes? | What will you do with these results? |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
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PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY: Identify how you will work to sustain the project beyond the initial funding.

As statutorily required work, regulatory compliance checks will be conducted through collaboration between Public Health, Aitkin County Sheriff's Office, and Aitkin County Attorney's Office. Grant funding to support this work, along with community engagement and education, is continually sought, and when it is not available, levy dollars fund the activity and youth stipends. Congratulate and Educate checks are not required or mandated; they are an opportunity for open conversation and dialogue with retailers, encouraging them to provide education to their staff and to organize their store in ways that have proven to make products less accessible and appealing to youth. The C&E program continues to exist through MDH and Aitkin County registers for the program each year to support the added visits to retailers and to support the ability to offer our youth buyers a stipend for their time and effort.

Section 6: Budget and Funding Request

Please complete the total project funding table below. **If line A is an overall cost please include an itemized list totaling the cost. You can also attach your own detailed budget.**

Total Project Funding Table

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|--|--------------|
| A) How much funding are you requesting from the Aitkin County Opioid Settlement Funds? | \$15,150.00 |
| B) Do you anticipate any additional funding for this project? <i>Include other grants, donations, fundraised amounts, budgeted dollars, etc.</i> | \$3,300.00* |
| C) How much do you or a partner anticipate contributing in-kind to the project? <i>Include staff/volunteer time, etc.</i> | \$5,100.00** |
| Total Project Cost (should equal the sum of the 3 lines above) | \$23,550.00 |

Submit your completed application via email to kelli.crowther@aitkincountymn.gov
Please put **OS Application** in the subject line.

Budget items:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| PH salary/fringe: \$60.25/hr x 65 hours/year = \$3,916.66 x 3 | \$11,750.00 |
| Purchasing of products/ items to assist with checks: \$200/category/year= \$800 x 3 | \$2,400.00 |
| Mileage – 500 miles/year ~\$333/year x 3 | \$1,000.00 |

* PH receives \$50/retailer/Tobacco C&E check. This funding is utilized as a stipend for the youth buyers for all the different category checks.

** in-kind staff time of Aitkin County Sheriff's Office and Aitkin County Auditor's Office.