



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

2Z

Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: May 13, 2025

Title of Item: Aitkin Public Schools Opioid Funding Request

<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) <input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing* <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>
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 ISD1 . This application was reviewed and unanimously approved by Opioid Subcommittee on April 23th, 2025. Project: AHS Prevention and Intervention for Substance Abuse Program Overview: ISD1s goal for this project is to offer prevention activities and implement small group and/or 1:1 interventions using the American Lung Association N-O-T and INDEPTH curriculum for students with substance abuse referrals in grades 7-12. The outcomes will be measured by willingness to quit and/or cessation for students.	
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:	
Recommended Action/Motion: Approve \$80,000 paid quarterly over 3 years funded with Opioid Settlement Funds to ISD1.	
Financial Impact: <i>Is there a cost associated with this request?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$</i> <i>Is this budgeted?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i> Opioid Settlement Funds will be used to support this project.	

Aitkin County Health and Human Services

Contact:

Please direct all correspondence to the contact information provided below.

Kelli Crowther, PHN

Aitkin County Public Health

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Kelli.crowther@aitkincountymn.gov



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Aitkin County

2025

Opioid Settlement (OS) Funding Application

Section 1: Applicant Information

Date	March 14, 2025
Organization Name	Aitkin Public Schools
Street Address	306 2nd St. NW
Mailing Address if different	
City, State, Zip Code	Aitkin, MN 56431
County	Aitkin

Primary Contact	Kathleen Christy
Phone	218-927-2115, ext. 3414
Email	kchristy@isd1.org

Financial Contact	Heather Hipp
Tax ID/SSN	41-600000-1
Phone	218-927-2115, ext. 3422
Email	hhipp@isd1.org

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:

AHS Prevention and Intervention for Substance Abuse Program

Brief Overview ISD1s goal for this project is to offer prevention activities and implement small group and/or 1:1 interventions using the American Lung Association N-O-T and INDEPTH curriculum for students with substance abuse referrals in grades 7-12. The outcomes will be measured by willingness to quit and/or cessation for students.

Funding Request

Up to \$80,000 over three years

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 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.

From August 2025 to June 2028 an AHS staff member will follow the MnMTSS model of support to offer:
-Interventions for students with substance abuse referrals in our school district, and
-offer prevention activities to our students.

Our goals include:

- supporting children affected by substance use disorders,
- funding interventionist services to improve the capability of our district to abate the opioid crisis with intervention, and
- prevent substance abuse.

ACTIVITIES TO ACCOMPLISH GOAL(S)	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL(S)
Provide small group and individual interventions with students who receive substance abuse referrals to increase willingness to quit and/or cessation.	September 2025-June 2028	AHS staff
Provide prevention activities to 7-12 grade students.		

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?
-decreased substance abuse.	<p>-the number of student substance abuse referrals will be reduced from the 2023-24 school year (no substance abuse interventionist position).</p> <p>-Each participant will be given a pre- and post-program survey to help gauge understanding and willingness to want to quit chemicals. Participants will show a marked improvement (through the survey) of their desire to remain chemical free</p> <p>-an increased understanding of the dangers and risks of using chemicals measured by survey results.</p>	AHS staff responsible for prevention efforts and substance abuse interventions will present results to ISD1s school board and the Opioid Settlement Committee.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY: Identify how you will work to sustain the project beyond the initial funding.

We will continue to search for ways to fund the interventionist position beyond the opioid settlement funding.

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

A) How much funding are you requesting from the Aitkin County Opioid Settlement Funds?	up to \$80,000
B) Do you anticipate any additional funding for this project? <i>Include other grants, donations, fundraised amounts, budgeted dollars, etc.</i>	\$ 0
C) How much do you or a partner anticipate contributing in-kind to the project? <i>Include staff/volunteer time, etc.</i>	About \$5,000 for staff development, office space, supervision of position, computer, and supplies.
Total Project Cost <i>(should equal the sum of the 3 lines above)</i>	Not more than \$85,000

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