



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

2G
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: 10/08/2024

Title of Item: Approve 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) <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*
Submitted by: Liz Short, Opioid Coordinator		Department: Aitkin County Health and Human Services
Presenter (Name and Title): Erin Melz, PHN, Public Health Supervisor		Estimated Time Needed: 0
Summary of Issue: <p>Approval of Health and Human Service Funding Application to sustain informative presentations to our community and youth stressing the importance of prevention and education around substance use and addiction. This application was reviewed and unanimously approved by the opioid subcommittee on 09/24/26. This funding will bring the nationally recognized organization, Tall Cop, to Aitkin County in 2025. This initiative will continue to build on dedication to sustainable messaging and keeping our youth and communities informed and up-to-date with the most recent data, trends, and facts. Social Media and vaping have been identified as topics of concern for Aitkin County, both are addressed with these presentations.</p> <p>Founder, Jermaine Galloway is a nationally recognized expert in various drug and alcohol trends. He speaks directly to health, medical, and community professionals. Deputy Gomez addresss youth on the dangers of social media, the normalization of drugs through digital awareness, and vaping in schools.</p>		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:		
Recommended Action/Motion: Approve \$20,000 opioid grant request for Aitkin County Health and Human Services		
Financial Impact: <p>Is there a cost associated with this request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$</p> <p>Is this budgeted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i></p> <p>Opioid Settlement Dollars will be used to support this project.</p>		

Aitkin County Health and Human Services

Contact:

Please direct all correspondence to the contact information provided below.

Liz Short, PHN

Aitkin County Public Health
((218) 927-7267

Elizabeth.short@co.aitkin.mn.us



2024

Opioid Settlement (OS) Funding Application

Section 1: Applicant Information

Date	September 16, 2024
Organization Name	Aitkin County HHS
Street Address	204 1 st Street NW
Mailing Address if different	
City, State, Zip Code	Aitkin MN 56431
County	Aitkin

Primary Contact	Liz Short
Phone	218-927-7267
Email	Elizabeth.short@co.aitkin.mn.us

Financial Contact	Carli Goble, Fiscal Supervisor, HHS
Tax ID/SSN	
Phone	218-927-7254
Email	carli.goble@co.aitkin.mn.us

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:	<i>Tall Cop</i>
Brief Overview	Tall Cop is a nationally recognized organization that provides education on prevention to curb and understand underage drinking and drug problems and how to detect and manage them in your own community. Founder, Jermaine Galloway is a nationally recognized expert in various drug and alcohol trends. He speaks directly to health, medical and community professionals. Deputy Gomez address's youth on the dangers of social media, the normalization of drugs through digital awareness and vaping in schools.
Funding Request	<i>Officer Jermaine Galloway: \$10,000</i> <i>Deputy Gomez: \$7500</i>

Section 2: Project Category

05/11/2023

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.

☐ Socioeconomic

☐ Veterans

☐ Other _____

☐ Seniors

☐ Homeless

☐ LGBTQ

☐ Youth

☐ 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.

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Officer Galloway

Presentation to teachers and community professionals [law enforcement, social services, public health, corrections, courts, healthcare, etc.]

2 sessions [repeated]

Session 1: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. [light lunch provided 12:00-1:00]

Session 2: [light lunch provided 12:0-1:00] 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Location TBD, most likely in City of Aitkin, MN

Wednesday and Thursday, October 1 and 2, 2025

Deputy David Gomez

Presentation to youth, likely grades 7-12 [schools will be invited to welcome parent attendance with their child if they so choose]

Day 1: 2 sessions at Aitkin High School, grades 7-9 and grades 10-12

Day 2: 1 session at McGregor Public School [approximately 30 minutes from Aitkin]

1 session at Hill City Public School [approximately 45 minutes from McGregor]

ACTIVITIES TO ACCOMPLISH GOAL(S)	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL(S)

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?

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

Aitkin County HHS is working to sustain annual informative presentations to our community and youth stressing the importance of prevention and education around substance use and addiction. In 2023 Representative David Baker presented to our schools and community about the dangers of opioids and fentanyl. In 2024 Change the Outcome is scheduled to present to our school's youth, grades 7-12 about prevention and harm reduction. In 2025, Tall Cop will continue to build on dedication to sustainable messaging and keeping our youth and communities informed and up-to-date with the most recent data, trends and facts available. Social Media and vaping have been identified topics of concern for Aitkin County, both of which are addressed with these presentations.

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

A) How much funding are you requesting from the Aitkin County Opioid Settlement Funds? Additional \$2500 for potential cost increases, light meals and advertising, marketing.	\$17,500 \$2,500
B) Do you anticipate any additional funding for this project? <i>Include other grants, donations, fundraised amounts, budgeted dollars, etc.</i>	\$N/A
C) How much do you or a partner anticipate contributing in-kind to the project? <i>Include staff/volunteer time, etc.</i>	\$N/A
Total Project Cost <i>(should equal the sum of the 3 lines above)</i>	\$20000

Submit your completed application via email to Elizabeth.short@co.aitkin.mn.us
Please put OS Application in the subject line.