



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

2S

Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: May 27, 2025

Title of Item: HOPE 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: Kelli Crowther, PHN, Opioid Coordinator		Department: Aitkin County H&HS- Public Health
Presenter (Name and Title):		Estimated Time Needed:
Summary of Issue: Final approval of funding application on behalf of HOPE. This application was reviewed and unanimously approved by Opioid Subcommittee on May 14, 2025. Project: HOPE Healthy Relationships Teen Program Overview: To expand HOPE's Healthy Relationship Teen Program, with the funding assistance from OS this outreach and education could happened more often. Our organization has the relationships and partnerships already established. However, we lack funds to further print material of new curriculum (One Love), resource materials (300 teens x 1/yr. increase to 2/yr. OR extend and reach additional grades.		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:		
Recommended Action/Motion: Approve \$5,000 one time payment funded with Opioid Settlement Funds to HOPE.		
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

((218) 927-7267

Kelli.crowther@aitkincountymn.gov



2025

Opioid Settlement (OS) Funding Application

Section 1: Applicant Information

Date	HOPE Opioid Funding Request
Organization Name	May 27, 2025
Street Address	117 2nd St. NW Ave
Mailing Address if different	PO Box 153
City, State, Zip Code	Aitkin, MN 56431
County	Aitkin

Primary Contact	Megan Cummings
Phone	218.927.2327
Email	megan@aitkinhope.org

Financial Contact	Megan Cummings
Tax ID/SSN	41-1543099
Phone	Kelli Crowther, PHN, Opioid Coordinator
Email	Aitkin County H&HS- Public Health

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:	<small>Final approval of funding application on behalf of HOPE. This application was reviewed and unanimously approved by Opioid Subcommittee on May 14, 2025.</small>
Brief Overview	
Funding Request	

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.

☐ Socioeconomic

☐ Veterans

☐ Other

Approve \$5,000 one time payment funded with Opioid Settlement Funds to HOPE.

☐ 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.

To expand from the current healthy relationships education sessions to increase the frequency of sessions, OR expand to additional grades. HOPE is partnering and offering these sessions in all of the Aitkin County schools. The sites that we've partnered with include: Aitkin High School, Aitkin Alternative School, McGregor High School, Hill City, and Aitkin Youth Center. Annually, HOPE is reaching about 300 teen, it would be our goal to increase our reach (more students) and/or increase the amount of sessions we work with the current teens.

One Love, CDC evidence based curriculum. This education incorporates leading recommendations from the CDC for intimate partner violence prevention, as well as current research and culturally responsive best practices from youth development, social and emotional learning, and other related fields, targeting behavior changes. In all sessions we discuss consent. The message in connection to substance use is clear: "It is impossible to give consent when you're under the influence of drugs and alcohol. In a caring relationship, your partner knows they do not have permission to be sexual." CDC data shows the following data correlating substance use and risk behavior in relationships. 1. 14% of students reported misusing prescription opioids. 2. Youth opioid use is directly linked to sexual risk behaviors. 3. Students who report ever using prescription drugs - without a doctor's Rx - are more likely than other students to have been the victim of physical or sexual violence. 4. Drug use associated with sexual risk behavior, experiencing violence, and mental health and suicide risks.

ACTIVITIES TO ACCOMPLISH GOAL(S)	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL(S)
Present at Aitkin High School	Sep'25-May'26	
Present at Aitkin Alternative School	Sep'25-May'26	Advocate, Jaime
Present at Aitkin Youth Center	Opioid Settlement Funds will be used to support this project.	Advocate, Jaime
Present at McGregor High School	Sep'25-May'26	Advocate, Jaime
Present at Hill City High School	Sep'25-May'26	Advocate, Jaime

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.

We have been partnering with the Aitkin County school districts for four years now w/healthy relationship education. I am hopeful that having these established relationships and sharing our data would result in continued funding from the OS 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 Table

A) How much funding are you requesting from the Aitkin County Opioid Settlement Funds?	\$ 5000
B) Do you anticipate any additional funding for this project? <i>Include other grants, donations, fundraised amounts, budgeted dollars, etc.</i>	\$
C) How much do you or a partner anticipate contributing in-kind to the project? <i>Include staff/volunteer time, etc.</i>	\$
Total Project Cost <i>(should equal the sum of the 3 lines above)</i>	\$ 5000

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