


NOTES

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Michael W. Cowin, City Manager 
DATE: July 31, 2024
SUBJECT: Materials for Your Information

Please find attached the following materials for your information:

1. A memo from Dene' Alexander, Assistant City Manager, regarding Opioid Settlement Fund update

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Attachment



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

DATE: July 29, 2024
TO: Michael W. Cowin, City Manager
FROM: Dene' V. Alexander, Asst. City Manager
SUBJECT: Notes to Council - Opioid Settlement Fund Update

Background

In 2021, City Council authorized the City to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the State of North Carolina for receipt of funding tied to a national opioid settlement. The City has signed on to several settlements, and the most recent opportunity is a settlement with Kroger. The City anticipates receipt of funding for up to 18 years, and is one of the few municipalities to receive an allocation.

There are multiple ways in which the City can expend the funding, including but not limited to, recovery support services, recovery housing support, employment-related services, prevention, training, and Naloxone distribution. However, Pitt County (County) has significant resources and functions that intersect with opioid use and is best suited to lead the efforts in expending the settlement funds.

Current Status

The County recently hired an Opioid Settlement Coordinator solely focused on programmatic and compliance aspects related to the funding and has also recently shifted the administration of the programming to the County's Health Department. The County has strong partnerships that have resulted in contracts with several providers in the region that offer supportive services to persons who are experiencing the effects of the opioid epidemic.

City of Greenville (City) staff recently met with County staff to discuss the opportunity for collaboration, including a proposed plan of action that will engage a group of community stakeholders and open dialogue about future use of funds, including the potential for the development of transitional housing using the opioid settlement fund. Ideally, these activities will occur in the Fall (September/October). The County is also actively engaging in discussions with the State to evaluate parameters for construction and acquisition of capital assets, including buildings, using the funding. The addition of transitional housing as an initiative has potential to further enhance and expand the efforts and positive impact in Pitt County, and other neighboring jurisdictions, to help combat the opioid epidemic.

To date, the City has received about \$405,000 from the settlement, and it anticipates allocating this funding to the County to expend on transitional housing, supportive services and

other activities identified by the community stakeholders. The City would also like to re-direct future funding to the County for the same.

Next Steps

At Council's upcoming meeting in August, City staff will request authorization to sign onto the Kroger opioid settlement. In the coming months, City staff will prepare and present information at a Council workshop and/or meeting to discuss the opportunity for allocation of current funding and re-direction of future funds to the County for continued collaboration and pursuit of allowable initiatives under the opioid settlement fund.

Cc: Renee' Skeen, Program Manager, Neighborhood & Business Services