



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: July 17, 2023

SUBJECT: Use of Opioid Settlement Funds

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Provide staff direction.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The state of Oregon is participating in a national opioid lawsuit against manufacturers. In 2021, nationwide settlements resolved all opioid suits brought by states and local political subdivisions, awarding \$26 billion for distribution over 18 years. The settlement amount Deschutes County expects to receive is estimated at \$6.7 million over that time.

Settlement dollars must be used for [specific abatement strategies](#), including, but not limited to:

- Naloxone training and distribution
- Medication-assisted treatment distribution and other opioid-related treatment
- Pregnant & postpartum women and expanding treatment for neonatal abstinence syndrome
- Expansion of hand-off programs and recovery programs
- Treatment for the incarcerated population
- Prevention programs
- Syringe service programs

On April 3, 2023, Health Services proposed three uses for the settlement funds, which included:

- 1) Prevention activities, including educational programs and community awareness
- 2) Collaborative, cross-system coordination and surveillance activities
- 3) Intervention activities through the stabilization center

The Board discussed potential benefits to reviewing a wider selection of evidence-based proposals for the settlement dollars and advised Health Services to present their proposal at an upcoming Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) meeting. On April 4, 2023, LPSCC was informed that Health made their proposal and that the County was looking at a broader approach. Members discussed inviting additional county departments or regional

partners to propose other uses for the settlement dollars that may best serve the community.

In follow up to the proposed uses of the settlement funds and discussion with the LPSCC, staff have prepared a series of potential next steps to solicit additional options for the use of opioid settlement funds:

- 1) Approve the three proposals from Health Services, presented on April 3, 2023.
- 2) Revise and/or approve select proposals from Health Services, presented on April 3, 2023.
- 3) Invite proposals from other county departments.
- 4) Invite proposals from other county departments and encourage county departments to partner with community non-profits to implement strategy and provide services.

The following potential next steps include a broader audience, but scope could be narrowed, if specific abatement strategies were identified, and/or proposals were required to contain evidence-based practice and definable outcomes.

- 5) Target specific community non-profits and solicit a proposal for use of funds.
- 6) Issue an RFP to non-profits for use of settlement funds and review proposals submitted.

Lastly, staff would like the board to consider a process to review proposals and suggest the following:

- 1) Local Public Safety Coordinating Committee reviews and makes a recommendation to the Board.
- 2) Board reviews proposals directly and makes a decision.
- 3) Other process, determined by the Board.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

\$6.7 million over 18 years

ATTENDANCE:

Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator
Stephanie Robinson, Administrative Analyst