



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 07/14/2026

REQUESTER: Amanda Sherf, Community Services Manager

PRESENTER: Amanda Sherf, Community Services Manager

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2627-7: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA AUTHORIZING GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE 2026 NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY THROUGH THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION GRANT FOR THE SAFETY THROUGH RECOVERY, ENGAGEMENT, AND EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENT AND SUPPORT.

BACKGROUND:

On June 17, 2026, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) SM-26-019, the Safety Through Recovery, Engagement, and Evidence-Based Treatment and Support (STREETS) program. The purpose of this program is to fund comprehensive, street-based engagement, treatment, and recovery support services for individuals experiencing homelessness who have serious mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, substance use disorders, or co-occurring mental and substance use disorders. Applications for the grant are due July 17, 2026.

The City of Norman is eligible to apply for this grant, which could award up to \$3,000,000 per year for up to four years, with no matching requirement. Applicants must complete and adhere to application and compliance requirements outlined in the FY 2026 SAMHSA NOFO Application Guide and relevant federal regulations.

DISCUSSION:

Given Norman's ongoing efforts in community services and the city's eligibility as a political subdivision, SM-26-019 presents an opportunity to expand street-level behavioral health capacity for residents experiencing homelessness and complex co-occurring conditions. With up to \$3,000,000 per year available for up to four years, Norman could design a robust, multi-disciplinary model (mobile teams, peer recovery, on-street MAT linkage, crisis stabilization pathways, and housing navigation) that coordinates across city departments, local providers, and county/state systems.

Norman continues to experience high numbers of individuals who cycle between street homelessness, emergency medical response, law enforcement contact, and hospital emergency departments due to acute intoxication, behavioral health crises, or co-occurring disorders. A sobering center, designed as a low-barrier facility offering short-term stabilization and monitoring for acutely intoxicated individuals, would fill a critical gap in the city's crisis response continuum.

Consistent with the STREETS program's emphasis on street-based engagement, evidence-based treatment linkage, and recovery support, a sobering center would:

- Provide immediate safety and stabilization for intoxicated individuals in lieu of jail or costly emergency room use.
- Serve as a front door for outreach teams to engage individuals who are not yet ready for treatment but are at extremely high risk.
- Facilitate on-site screening, motivational interventions, and warm handoffs to longer-term behavioral health care and housing supports.
- Improve coordination between first responders, behavioral health providers, and community partners.

While eligibility is limited to cities, counties, and tribal entities, the City will have to partner via subawards or memorandums of understanding with qualified local providers (e.g., behavioral health nonprofits) to carry out street-based services—provided such partnerships are structured within SAMHSA and 2 CFR 200 procurement/subaward rules and reflected in the proposal's work plan and budget. Community Partners/Stakeholders may include COCMHC, Red Rock, Variety Care, City Care, Norman Housing Authority, Salvation Army, CoC/Thunderbird Clubhouse, City of Norman, Cleveland County Sheriff's Office, Norman Municipal Court, Cleveland County District Court.

To ensure clinical quality, continuity, and treatment integration, the City is proposing a partnership with Red Rock Behavioral Health Services to lead the program as Project Director and Program Coordinator in addition to partnering with them for the operation of the sobering center. Red Rock has longstanding expertise in serving individuals with serious mental illness, substance use disorders, and co-occurring conditions. Partnering with Red Rock will allow the sobering center to:

- Incorporate licensed behavioral health professionals into operations, ensuring safe monitoring, clinical screening, and appropriate triage.
- Connect individuals directly to Red Rock's outpatient, crisis, psychiatric, and substance use treatment services, providing immediate pathways into care.
- Integrate peer support specialists and housing navigators into the recovery model.
- Operate within federal grant requirements through compliant subaward or contractual partnerships, as permitted by SAMHSA and federal grants administration rules. 23

This partnership elevates the sobering center from a crisis-management site to a clinical engagement hub that aligns with the STREETS program's goals of improved access to treatment, recovery support, and reduced reliance on hospitals and law enforcement.

The sobering center would function as the primary stabilization point, supported by mobile outreach teams, peer recovery staff, and case managers, enabling rapid transition to Red Rock's outpatient, crisis, medication-assisted treatment, or psychiatric services.

To meet the July 17, 2026 deadline, staff must finalize the project design, budget, staffing model, data plan, and required SPOC and PHSIS submissions, consistent with the FY 2026 SAMHSA NOFO Application Guide.

If funded, cooperative agreement requirements will involve close federal oversight, annual reporting, and continuation awards contingent on performance.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution R-2627-7, authorizing City staff to submit a grant application to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for the purposes outlined in the grant NOFO.