



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 10/14/2025

REQUESTER: AshLynn Wilkerson, Assistant City Attorney

PRESENTER: Rick Knighton, City Attorney

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF CONTRACT K-2526-93: BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA AND THE VIRTUE CENTER, FOR A TOTAL OF \$498,000 OVER THREE YEARS TO IMPLEMENT THE APPROVED FY 2025 POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OPIOID ABATEMENT GRANT PROJECT WHICH CONSISTS OF FREE EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND AWARENESS PROGRAM(S), EXPANSION OF OUTPATIENT TREATMENT SERVICES FOR ADOLESCENTS AND ADULTS ADDICTED TO OPIATES, INCLUDING A NEW STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAM, AND PROVISION OF MEDICATION FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER.

BACKGROUND:

In 2020, the Oklahoma Legislature enacted House Bill 4138, the Political Subdivisions Opioid Abatement Grants Act, creating the Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Board oversight body for the distribution of opioid settlement funds. Section 2 of the Act provides the Legislature's purpose, which is "to promote and protect the health of Oklahomans by using monetary grants to abate the opioid crisis in a comprehensive manner that includes cooperation and collaboration with political subdivisions." 74 O.S. § 30.4. Although the City of Norman did not participate as a litigating party in any of the opioid lawsuits, it is eligible for opioid abatement grants.

On May 13, 2025, Request for Proposal RFP-2425-60 was posted seeking proposals for a partnership to assist the City with executing a project pursuant to the approved purposes set forth in the Act (see 74 O.S. §30.5). The Virtue Center was the highest-ranking submission, and their proposal informed the project submitted to the State in the grant application.

On June 3, 2025, City Council approved Resolution R-2425-132 authorizing Staff to submit an application for \$498,000 of grant funding over three years for the purpose of funding a partnership with The Virtue Center to implement the qualifying programs and services described in their proposal. The grant application was submitted to the State on June 11, 2025.

DISCUSSION:

On August 19, 2025, the State provided a Conditional Award of the \$498,000 grant funding for the partnership project with The Virtue Center. To be fully awarded the grant funding, Staff must revise the application as requested and detailed in the conditional award. City Council must also officially accept the grant award and approve both the agreement between the State and the City and the agreement between the City and The Virtue Center. Staff completed the required steps to satisfy the conditional award on September 18 and September 29, 2025.

The agreement with The Virtue Center outlines the responsibilities of both the City and The Virtue Center. The City will provide the grant funding to The Virtue Center only after receipt of the quarterly installments from the State, and: 1) in an initial monthly installment of \$13,833.33 for project initiation; and 2) on a monthly basis pursuant to approved invoices submitted by the Virtue Center. The Virtue Center is to execute the State-approved project in conformance with their proposal and the State-approved grant application and budget. The project generally provides the following services:

- Continuing free education and awareness program(s) for community members and leaders at large, annually.
- Continuing the expansion of outpatient treatment services to adolescents and adults whose primary addiction is opiates, initiated under the 2024 Political Subdivisions Opioid Abatement Grant; as well as enhancement of peer recovery and case management services.
- Implementation of a new family skills program “Strengthening Families”.
- Increase access to Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD).

The Virtue Center is also to supply any and all information, documentation, and reports needed to satisfy the quarterly reporting requirements and any other reporting information required by the State concerning the project. The term of the agreement will begin upon execution and last until either the date of project completion or June 30, 2028, whichever is first. This agreement obligates The Virtue Center to the same obligations contained in the City’s agreement with the State, as is required by that agreement.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of Contract K-2526-93.