



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 10/10/2023

REQUESTER: Kathryn Walker

PRESENTER: Kathryn Walker, City Attorney

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2324-71: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT A LETTER OF INTENT TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR AN OPIOID ABATEMENT GRANT AWARD.

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.

Grants funds are limited by statute for certain approved purposes set out in 74 O.S. §30.5. These include evidence-based, forward-looking strategies, programming and services used to:

- a. expand the availability of treatment for individuals affected by opioid use disorders, co-occurring substance use disorders and mental health issues,
- b. develop, promote and provide evidence-based opioid use prevention strategies,
- c. provide opioid use disorder and co-occurring substance use disorder avoidance and awareness education,
- d. decrease the oversupply of licit and illicit opioids,
- e. support recovery from addiction services performed by qualified and appropriately licensed providers,
- f. treat opioid use, abuse and disorders including early intervention screening, counseling and support,
- g. support individuals in treatment and recovery from opioid use, abuse and disorder,

- h. provide programs or services to connect individuals with opioid use, abuse or disorder, or who are at risk of developing opioid use disorder, co-occurring substance use disorder and mental health issues, with treatment and counseling programs and services,
- i. address the needs of individuals who are involved, or who are at risk of becoming involved, in the criminal justice system due to opioid use, abuse or disorder through programs or services in municipal and county criminal judicial systems including prearrest and postarrest diversion programs, pretrial services and drug or recovery courts,
- j. address the needs of pregnant or parenting women with opioid use, abuse or disorder and their families,
- k. address the needs of parents and caregivers caring for babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome,
- l. support efforts to prevent overprescribing and ensure appropriate prescribing and dispensing of opioids,
- m. support efforts to discourage or prevent misuse of opioids including the oversupply of licit and illicit opioids,
- n. support efforts to prevent or reduce overdose deaths or other opioid-related harms including through increased availability and distribution of naloxone and other drugs that treat overdoses for use by first responders, persons who have experienced an overdose event, families, schools, community-based service providers, social workers and other members of the public,
- o. reimburse or fund law enforcement and emergency responder expenditures relating to the opioid epidemic including costs of responding to emergency medical or police calls for service, equipment, treatment or response alternatives, mental health response training and training for law enforcement and emergency responders as to appropriate practices and precautions when dealing with opioids or individuals who are at risk of opioid overdose or death,
- p. reimburse attorney fees and allowable expenses directly related to opioid litigation incurred as part of legal services agreements entered into before May 21, 2020,
- q. support efforts to provide leadership, planning and coordination to abate the opioid epidemic through activities, programs or strategies for prevention and recovery models including regional intergovernmental efforts and not-for-profit agency support,
- r. support education of youths regarding the dangers of opioid use, abuse and addiction,
- s. fund training relative to any approved purpose,
- t. monitor, surveil and evaluate opioid use, abuse or disorder, or
- u. provide opioid abatement as identified by the Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Board as consistent with the purpose of the Political Subdivisions Opioid Abatement Grants Act.

In August, the Opioid Abatement Board issued a Notice of Intent to Issue Funding Opportunity. Currently, the only entities authorized for application for these funds include political subdivisions and public trusts having political subdivisions as their sole beneficiary. The information released thus far does not specify whether the City may be able to use abatement funds by contracting

with another provider equipped to provide opioid abatement services. It is anticipated that the Opioid Abatement Board will consider rules that will address this issue. As of the date of this memorandum, a meeting to discuss possible rules related to the grant program has not been scheduled by the Opioid Abatement Board.

Because the grant is available to many entities across the State, the Opioid Abatement Board is requiring that applicants provide the Board a Notice of Intent to apply for a grant. The notice of intent must be submitted no later than October 25, 2023 at 5:00pm.

DISCUSSION:

Resolution R-2324-71 authorizes the City Manager to submit a letter providing notice of the City's intent to seek opioid abatement grant funding. It is anticipated that a grant application will be required in late November, with awards occurring early in 2024. As more information becomes available, Staff will work to give notice to non-profits in the community working in this area if an opportunity to partner with such groups using grant funds is allowed under rules applicable to this program.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution R-2324-71.