

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 20, 2023

**TO:** Members of the City of Bloomington Common Council

**FROM:** Beverly Calender-Anderson, Director, Community and Family Resources Department

**RE:** Request for allocation of Opioid Settlement Funds – Appropriation Ordinance 23-01

The Community and Family Resources Department (“CFRD”) is asking the Council to appropriate the current balance of the Opioid Settlement Funds received by the City of Bloomington (“City”), i.e. the payments received for 2022, for use by CFRD to help provide services to residents affected by the opioid crisis. This appropriation would involve only the 2022 payments, a total of \$391,906; it would not affect subsequent payments under the initial settlement reached with certain manufacturers and distributors, or later settlements in which the City participates; those funds would be subject to separate appropriations.

CFRD proposes using the funds as described below.

Each year CFRD coordinates the Downtown Outreach Grant which provides funding for non-profit agencies that support Bloomington’s unhoused residents or those in danger of becoming homeless. The investment of these funds into local non-profits has resulted in outreach staff who work with the City to assure that people living in encampments are getting needed services, including healthcare, and are aware of area resources such as payments for bus tickets and funding for out of towners to return to their home communities, syringe disposal boxes, case management and navigator services.

In the 2023 DTO grant cycle, the request total was \$544,771, more than double the \$250,000 allocated for this grant cycle. The grant selection committee evaluated each grant and though most of the requests were legitimate and fell into the parameters of the grant’s purpose, the committee was able to get the award amount down from the \$544,771 total requested to \$320,660, which was still \$70,500 more than budgeted. The consensus of the committee is that further cuts would not be enough for agencies to implement any part of the programs they’d proposed.

Earlier this month a Memorandum of Understanding was provided to the agencies receiving awards for the Downtown Outreach Grant indicating the total amount for awards that is currently available, \$250,160.

In addition the City and County have collaborated on a matching grant through FSSA to address substance use disorder in Monroe County. The City's portion of this match is \$100,000 and includes a naloxone supply and education program, and drug, medication and syringe disposal apparatus along with educational resources on the proper disposal of medications and syringes.

The City of Bloomington received \$391,906 in 2022 in Opioid Settlement Funds. The State of Indiana is using the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's five guiding principles to ensure that these funds are used most effectively:

- Spend money to save lives
- Use evidence to guide spending
- Invest in youth prevention
- Focus on racial equity
- Develop a fair and transparent process for deciding where to spend the funds.

In order to collaborate with County government on its upcoming programs addressing substance use disorder and to make the Downtown Outreach Grant selection committee's total of \$320,660 available for the Downtown Outreach Grants, all of which purposes are consistent with the types of "abatement" expenditures approved by the settlement documents and state law for the use of Opioid Settlement Funds, we recommend the Council approve an appropriation of \$391,906 from the Opioid Settlement Funds to Classification -3 Grants within the budget of the Community and Family Resources. \$170,500 will be used for the purposes described above, and the remainder will be available for CFRD to address similar community needs. The funding will at all times be used consistent with local, state and federal law.

The Administration has given the public notice of this proposed additional 2023 appropriation by publication as required under Indiana Code 6-1.1-18-5(a) and Indiana Code 5-3-1-2(b). If, following the public hearing, Council approves the proposed additional appropriation, the Controller will promptly file a certified copy with the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) as required by state law, IC 6-1.1-18-5(b) and (e). The DLGF has 15 days to determine in writing whether sufficient funds are available to cover the appropriation. The Administration expects an affirmative ruling from the DLGF.

Council review and approval of this proposed additional appropriation ordinance will also satisfy the requirements of Bloomington Municipal Code 2.26.210, which calls for Council review and approval by resolution of expenditures of at least \$100,000.