

Memorandum

To: Selectboard; Greg Duggan, Town Manager; Marguerite Ladd, Deputy Manager

From: Dan Roy, Finance Director, Marguerite Ladd, Deputy Manager, Ron Hoague, Police Chief

Re: Discussion of Funding from National Opioid Settlements

Date: April 11, 2024

Issue

The issue is to discuss funds received through national opioid settlements and consider using opioid settlement funds for fiscal year 2024.

Discussion

In fiscal year 2023, the Town began receiving funds relating to National Opioid Settlements cases. A total of \$37,954.02 was received between December 2022 and January 2023. The Selectboard directed these funds to Community Outreach on February 2nd, 2023. Expenditures for Community Outreach are tracked within the Police professional services line item. This line item had a budget of \$65,096 in the FY23 budget. The budget included costs for DEI work, towing, shredding, consulting, and translation expenses. Directing the Opioid Settlement Funds to this budget line item increased the amount available from \$65,096 to \$103,050.02. During the year the Town spent \$11,354.48 of the \$65,096 budget on planned items. The remainder was rolled into the general fund fund balance. Of the \$37,954.02 in opioid funds received, all was spent on Community Outreach outside of what was planned.

In fiscal year 2024, the Town has received \$10,142.74 in settlement funds. These funds were not included as revenue in the FY24 budget. The Selectboard can now consider how it would like to direct these funds, staff suggestions are included later in this memo. The funds must be spent on opioid abatement and remediation activities, but there is no deadline for the funds to be spent.

In FY25 the Town anticipates \$8,186. This was known during budget preparation and the funding is included in the budget. The \$8,186 is included in the miscellaneous revenue line item of the Police Operating budget.

The Selectboard could consider using the FY24 unbudgeted National Opioid Settlement funding of \$10,142.74 in the following ways:

1. The Selectboard could direct the funding to be put towards Community Outreach, in the professional services line in the police operating budget. The current budget for Community Outreach is \$48,912 with actual spending of \$36,684 as of March 31.
2. The Selectboard opt to return the settlement funds to the state of Vermont to be used at the state level for opioid remediation and abatement. One example of the state usage is to provide free Narcan and education on the topic of overdose prevention and how to use the Narcan.
3. A couple of residents brought up the idea of spending the funds on remediation and abatement efforts through creating a type of community educational forum that could potentially include the school district or other stakeholders.

4. The Selectboard could consider not using any funds at this time and discuss the topic as part of their strategic planning priorities on May 8th. They could discuss the feasibility of a larger scale project where future year receipts could be considered with the planning discussions.

Cost

To be discussed

Recommendation

The Town recommends that the Selectboard discuss and consider using the FY24 unbudgeted National Opioid Settlement funding of \$10,142.74.

Attachments:

Community Outreach update

Opioid Allocation projections chart



MEMO

To: Essex Police Department
From: Howard Center, Community Outreach Program
Date: 4/9/24
Subject: Substance Use and Opioid Abatement

The Community Outreach Program was created as a collaborative effort between Howard Center and local town and law enforcement stakeholders to assist individuals in the community with unmet social service needs, often related to mental illness and substance use.

Some of the services that Community Outreach provides to those presenting with substance use concerns are:

- Low barrier harm reduction methods including distributing Narcan and fentanyl test strips
- Facilitating intakes to Valley Vista
- Assistance with connecting to therapy
- Assistance and support to connect with ongoing care providers and case managers
- Postvention supports for fatal overdoses (to connect loved ones with needed resources to minimize further risk of overdose to others who may also be using)
- (Limited circumstances) welfare checks in coordination with the Chittenden Clinic
- Connecting those who are using opiates with basic needs including housing, insurance, food resources, and primary medical care providers

The team identifies individuals struggling with substance use through self-disclosure from individuals regarding their use, suspected overdose, clear indications that the individual is under the influence of substances (i.e., the individuals presentation - observation of paraphernalia, pinpoint pupils, nodding off, erratic behavior that is not otherwise explained by circumstances or diagnosis, etc.), if law enforcement notifies the team an individual is known to use substances, or someone has relapsed and the team is being asked to provide resources and treatment options.

In FY23, the team provided support to 33 individuals for whom substance use was the presenting concern. Substance use was a secondary concern for 212 individuals who's presenting concerns were emotional/behavioral/mental health, homelessness or housing instability, domestic violence, suicidal ideation/behaviors, or family/relational conflict.

NOS 1017	Projected Allocations	
Row	Payment Type	Projected Allocation Amount
1.	Distributor Projected Payment 4 (July, 2024)	\$8,185.58
2.	Distributor Projected Payment 5 (July, 2025)	\$8,185.58
3.	Distributor Projected Payment 6 (July, 2026)	\$8,185.58
4.	Distributor Projected Payment 7 (July, 2027)	\$6,721.57
5.	Distributor Projected Payment 8 (July, 2028)	\$9,627.23
6.	Distributor Projected Payment 9 (July, 2029)	\$9,627.23
7.	Distributor Projected Payment 10 (July, 2030)	\$9,627.23
8.	Distributor Projected Payment 11 (July, 2031)	\$8,092.66
9.	Distributor Projected Payment 12 (July, 2032)	\$8,092.66
10.	Distributor Projected Payment 13 (July, 2033)	\$8,092.66
11.	Distributor Projected Payment 14 (July, 2034)	\$8,092.66
12.	Distributor Projected Payment 15 (July, 2035)	\$8,092.66
13.	Distributor Projected Payment 16 (July, 2036)	\$8,092.66
14.	Distributor Projected Payment 17 (July, 2037)	\$8,092.66
15.	Distributor Projected Payment 18 (July, 2038)	\$8,092.66

NOS 1017	Projected Allocations	
Row	Payment Type	Projected Allocation Amount
1.	Janssen Projected Payment 6 (June, 2026)	\$1,270.57
2.	Janssen Projected Payment 7 (June, 2027)	\$1,270.57
3.	Janssen Projected Payment 8 (June, 2028)	\$1,270.57
4.	Janssen Projected Payment 9 (June, 2029)	\$1,617.66
5.	Janssen Projected Payment 10 (June, 2030)	\$1,617.66
6.	Janssen Projected Payment 11 (June, 2031)	\$1,617.66