



Recommendation for Action

File #: 23-1931, **Agenda Item #:** 40.

6/1/2023

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20220817-004) to accept and appropriate opioid settlement funding in the amount of \$1,531,218 and add 1.0 full-time equivalent position for communication and harm reduction strategies to address the escalating public health crisis caused by drug overdoses.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$1,531,218 is available from the State Comptroller's Office. A fiscal note is attached.

Prior Council Action:

December 9, 2021 - Council passed Resolution No. 20211209-047 adopting the Texas Term Sheet for the global opioid settlement in Texas Opioid Multi-District Litigation on an 11-0 vote.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

The Texas Term Sheet governs how settlement funds the State of Texas receives will be distributed to local governments. The term sheet uses a formula to divide the settlement funds among the state, an opioid abatement fund that allows for grants, and then among local governments. The City has since joined eight settlements whose fund distribution is guided by the Texas Term Sheet. This settlement payment received is \$1,531,218, which is made up of payments from the following four settlements: Endo (full payment), Teva (1st of 15 payments), Janssen (full payment), and Distributors (1st of 18 payments).

The new position will coordinate initiatives with internal and external partners, serve as subject matter expert on evidence-based overdose prevention strategies, and assure appropriate reporting and completion of deliverables for grant funded overdose prevention initiatives.

City of Austin departments brought together key community agencies and partners to discuss opioid use and misuse within the Austin metropolitan area, and to develop a mutual understanding of their data, initiatives and response roles, and the activities currently being conducted in the prevention and treatment for persons experiencing substance use disorders.

The group recognized that to effectively respond to the growing substance abuse crisis (including opioid abuse) requires a multidisciplinary, collaborative, and coordinated response. Group members represented included public safety (law enforcement, emergency medical services), Austin-Travis County Office of the Medical Director (OMD), Austin Public Health (APH), Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC), Travis County Medical Examiner, Integral Care (Mental Health), Travis County Health and Human Services,

substance abuse, and primary care agencies, and community organizations representing treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and overdose reversal.