



INDEPENDENCE

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February 1, 2024

RE: Opioid Settlement Funds

Mayor and Members of the Council,

As requested, the Advisory Board of Health reviewed approved possible uses of the approximately \$1.4 million in opioid settlement funds that the City anticipates receiving.

It is the Board's recommendation that at least \$250,000 per year be set aside for the ARCH co-responder program over the next two years. This program has seen great success since its start just a few years ago; however, the two licensed clinical social workers do not currently have a dedicated funding source to ensure the program's sustainability. The ARCH program clearly meets the criteria as an approved use as it addresses the needs of persons with substance use and mental health conditions who are involved in or are at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system.

Because no deadline exists for expending the funds, we recommend continued discussion and deliberation regarding the remaining funds.

Sincerely,

Advisory Board of Health