



CITY OF BANGOR

Special City Council Workshop

Monday, March 2, 2026

Council Chambers, City Hall, 73 Harlow St., 5:15 p.m.

Agenda

1. Opioid Advisory Committee Recommendation



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

CITY OF BANGOR

Carolynn J. Lear
City Manager

To: Special Council Workshop
From: Carolynn Lear, City Manager
Date: March 2, 2026
RE: Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Committee – Recommendation

In April of this year, the Bangor City Council established the Opioid Settlement Funds Advisory Committee to advise the City Council on the best use of the City of Bangor's opioid settlement funds in a manner that is transparent, fair and equitable. That Committee was set to expire at the end of calendar year 2025, but in December, Council extended the Committee through June 30, 2026.

The Committee met a total of fifteen times to complete its work. To inform its work, the Committee first elected to complete a Letter of Interest process whereby potential applicants were invited to submit letters of interest from community stakeholders. Letters of interest were due on September 5, 2025 and on September 18, 2025 the Committee hosted a workshop and listening session.

The Committee utilized its own expertise along with the insights gained from the letter of interest responses and listening session to create a grant application process to assist them in making their final recommendation to City Council. The grant application closed on December 1, 2025. Upon closure of the grant application period, the Committee undertook the process of scoring grant applications and reviewing those scores as a Committee. The Committee relied on assistance from the Maine Opioid Settlement Support (MOSS) Center to craft the grant applications process. The MOSS Center is a Maine-based organization that provides consultation, resources, training, and evidence-based technical assistance to Maine communities as they make decisions on the use of settlement funds.

The Committee's application solicited proposals of up to \$50,000 from Maine based organizations that provide services within the City of Bangor. The Committee had up to \$650,000 in settlement funds to allocate. In response to the grant application, the Committee received a total of 32 grant applications, most of which requested funding at the full \$50,000 cap.

The Committee began with nine (9) voting members. Two members resigned (for reasons unrelated to the Committee's work) prior to the Committee's final vote on the recommendation to Council and one member felt a professional obligation to recuse themselves. One member was absent from the Committee meeting on the date the final vote was held. This left 5 Committee members present and voting on this final recommendation. This final recommendation passed by a vote of (3-2).

The split vote on this final recommendation is notable and deserves explanation. One grant applicant, Bangor Public Health & Community Services (BPH&CS), scored well enough in the

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grant scoring process (6th highest of 32 proposals) to receive a grant award of \$50,000 for their proposal¹. However, when the final recommendation was ultimately moved, the motion was made to not fund the BPH&CS proposal and to instead fund a lower scoring proposal (19th of 32 proposals). The three members voting in favor of the final recommendation did not wish to fund the PHCS proposal because Council previously allocated \$550,000 from opioid settlement funds to support intensive HIV case management services. The two members voting against the Committee's final recommendation due to the removal of the BPPH&CS proposal felt that it was inequitable and not in alignment with the Committee's established procedure to specifically remove an applicant based on a criterion that was not set forth in the grant application documentation and because no other applicant was reviewed to determine whether they had already received opioid settlement funds. Additionally, the two members voting against the Committee's final recommendation felt that the methodology established by the Committee was established to identify the most beneficial projects to receive funding irrespective of applicant.

The final list of projects that the Committee recommends funding is below and the Committee has been invited to attend this Special Workshop.

¹ The BPH&CS proposal was to fund a per-diem nurse practitioner to provide 12-15 hours of weekly healthcare services at the One-Stop-Shop located at Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness on Hancock Street. The project aims to expand access to primary and preventive care for individuals in Bangor who experience significant social and physical barriers to healthcare and who are affected by SUD and co-occurring mental health conditions.



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Organization	Project Description	Recommended Award
Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine	This proposal directly addresses the intergenerational harms of the OUD/SUD crisis by focusing on placement stabilization and primary prevention. When children are removed due to parental substance use, they are placed with kinship caregivers who face immediate and overwhelming financial and emotional strain. The primary harm mitigated is caregiver burnout, which is a leading predictor of placement disruption. By providing funds for structured activities, KSRI offers caregivers essential respite time (reducing stress) and engages youth in protective, resilience-building environments (reducing their own risk factors for future SUD). This multi-layered approach protects the most vulnerable element—the child's stable home—which is necessary for long-term recovery and well-being.	\$12,500 ²
Wellspring	Short-term stabilization funding for services at risk due to changes in federal funding and Mainecare reimbursement while organization modifies their service delivery model to response to those changes. Organization provides counseling and coordinated care for individuals with OUD and co-occurring mental health conditions.	\$48,609
Boys & Girls Club of Bangor	BGCB will implement a comprehensive primary prevention initiative targeted at reducing early risk factors for youth substance use while strengthening protective conditions that help young people thrive. Our approach revolves around the creation of emotionally safe and relationship-rich environments wherein youth will find themselves supported by caring adults, engaging in skill-building experiences, and connecting with their families and community. Three-tiered approach: (1) build staff capacity regarding trauma-informed and promising prevention practices, (2) Implement SMART Moves: Emotional Wellness, an evidence-based substance use prevention curriculum, and (3) Family engagement and caregiver support.	\$10,000
Needlepoint Sanctuary	Create a Recovery Coach position embedded directly within the harm reduction and recovery center on Ohio Street.	\$34,000

² The applicant's proposal would have served individuals located both within and outside of Bangor. The Committee elected to only partially fund the project to reflect services provided only to Bangor residents.

Community Health and Counseling Services	Establish a Supported Housing Model at Theresa's Place, a permanent housing initiative for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Currently, CHCS has temporary funding to support one full-time staff member; however, this staffing model must be strengthened to provide the comprehensive support necessary for a sustainable and effective program.	\$50,000
Bangor Y	Project would expand access to affordable childcare for Bangor families impacted by OUD/SUD, provide free mental health and prevention programs for adolescents impacted by OUD/SUD, and support health programs to support recovery.	\$50,000
Penobscot Community Health Center	Short-term stabilization/bridge funding for organizations transitional housing program due to transfer of facility ownership and associated changes to funding steam. Bridge funding will maintain the services offered while organization works with state and federal partners to identify a sustainable funding model, including billing to MaineCare.	\$50,000
Bangor Comprehensive Treatment Center	Expand access to OUD treatment and strengthen clinical capacity through two related efforts: providing MAT to underinsured and uninsured individuals and offering transportation assistance to those who are in need.	\$48,829.29
Crosspoint	Formal discipleship and recovery program for recently incarcerated men with OUD/SUD and co-occurring MH disorders. Men will live at facility for 6-12 months where organization will provide safe and supportive housing, mentorship, accountability, employment training, educational services, connections to care and community-based services; and transportation services. Will serve 8 individuals.	\$48,000
Saint Andre Home	\$10,000 to strengthen recovery support services for individuals living within the City of Bangor, including those who are unhoused or unstably housed. CourageLIVES provides trauma-informed, community-based behavioral health and recovery services for survivors of human trafficking, exploitation, and abuse, many of whom also struggle with OUD/SUD and co-occurring mental health conditions. Funding will expand our existing Peer Support Specialist (PSS) initiative by providing flexible, client-directed assistance that removes barriers to treatment, stabilizes basic needs, and improves access to essential supports.	\$10,000



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Blue Sky Counseling	The Bangor Integrated Opioid Treatment Program will expand access to evidence-based opioid use disorder treatment for uninsured Bangor residents by eliminating financial barriers to care. This project provides immediate access to intake assessments, medication for opioid use disorder, counseling, care coordination, and stabilization support, creating a rapid-entry pathway for individuals at highest risk of overdose.	\$50,000
GBA Counseling Services	Seeks to provide expansion of immediate and critical treatment access for uninsured individuals with Substance Use Disorder, specifically Opioid Use Disorders, and/or Co-Occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder. Given the critical shortage of providers and lengthy or stalled waitlists expansion of our services are crucial. The requested \$30,000.00 will allow GBACS to immediately lease a three office units space and hire an additional licensed clinician. The location of the office and the additional licensed clinician have been located and are pending this funding. This request is to build on GBACS application for Opioid Settlement funding from Penobscot County, allowing 12 more individuals to access immediate and critical treatment, available via both Telehealth and in-person formats.	\$30,000
Metro Treatment of Maine	Expanding access to evidence-based Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for individuals who might otherwise be unable to obtain care. By providing financial support through treatment scholarships, the project reduces barriers to initiating and sustaining MAT—an intervention proven to lower overdose deaths, reduce illicit opioid use, and improve long-term recovery outcomes. The project also supports earlier engagement in treatment following overdose or crisis, helping stabilize individuals and prevent repeat emergencies. As clients enter MAT, they also gain access to counseling, recovery supports, and wraparound services that address the social and behavioral factors contributing to opioid-related harm.	\$50,000
Preble Street	Preble Street requests funding to support Hope House, the only facility in Bangor that provides low-barrier, emergency shelter for people experiencing homelessness, SUD/ODU, and co-occurring mental health disorders. Funds will support people in their transition from homelessness and active substance use to stable housing and recovery.	\$50,000

Timberwolves NAC	The Bangor Community Wellness and Prevention Program Phase 2 expands upon the successful foundation established during the initial pilot. Phase 1 demonstrated a clear community need for trauma-informed prevention services, culturally grounded healing opportunities, family wellness education, youth-focused supports, and accessible harm-reduction training. Phase 2 strengthens and enlarges this work by broadening program capacity, deepening prevention supports, expanding targeted workshops, enhancing culturally rooted wellness offerings, and introducing a peer wellness leadership component that builds long-term sustainability.	\$50,000
Wabanaki Public Health	Would fund extended detox intake hours, increasing the availability of medication for opioid use disorder, and strengthening services to assist successful transition to ongoing treatment.	\$50,000
		TOTAL: \$641,938