CITY COUNCIL ACTION 03/09/2026 26-109

Council Meeting Date: 03/09/2026

Item No: 26-109

Responsible Dept: City Manager

Requested Action: Order Map/Lot: N/A

Title, Order

Authorizing the Award of $641,297 of Opioid Settlement Funds Based on the Recommendation of the Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Committee with Modifications

Summary

The Bangor City Council established the Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Committee to advise the City Council on the best use of the City of Bangor's opioid settlement funds in a manner that was transparent, fair and equitable. The Committee met a total of fifteen times to complete its work, which included extensive information gathering and ultimately a grant application process to inform the allocation of up to $650,000. The Committee received a total of 32 grant applications and voted a final recommended slate of 16 awards to City Council. This final recommendation passed the Advisory Committee by a vote of (3-2).

At a Special Council Workshop on March 2, 2026, Council voted to accept the Advisory Committee's recommendation with modifications. One grant applicant, the City's Department of Public Health & Community Services (DPH&CS), scored well enough in the grant scoring process to receive a grant award of $50,000 for their proposal. However, when the final recommendation was ultimately moved by the Advisory Committee, the motion was made to not fund the DPH&CS proposal and to instead fund a lower scoring proposal because DPH&CS had already been allocated opioid settlement funds for a different program. The two members voting against the Committee's final recommendation due to the removal of the DPH&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.

At the Special Council Workshop, Council desired to accept the Advisory Committee's recommendation with the addition of the request from DPH&CS, which necessitated the removal of the lowest scoring applicant from the Advisory Committee's recommended slate. This removed applicant will be considered for future funding with opioid settlement funds if they choose to apply.

The full list of awards is contained in the Attachment and was recommended for approval at the Special Council Workshop by a vote of 7-1.

Committee Action

Committee: Council Workshop Meeting Date: 03/02/2026

Action: Recommend for passage For: 7 Against: 1

Previous Council Actions

City Manager City Solicitor Finance Director

Introduced for: New Business

CITY OF BANGOR ORDER 03/09/2026 26-109

Date: 03/09/2026

Item No: 26-109

Assigned to Councilor: Walker

Authorizing the Award of $641,297 of Opioid Settlement Funds Based on the Recommendation of the Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Committee with Modifications

Now, therefore, be it ordered by the City Council of the City of Bangor that, the award of $641,297 of Opioid Settlement Funds based on the recommendation of the Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Committee is hereby authorized with two modifications, as reflected in the attachment.

Attachment CO 26-109 03/09/2026

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[1]
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

[1] 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.

Bangor Public Health and Community Services	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-occuring mental health conditions.	$49,358
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
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/OUD, 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
		TOTAL: $641,297