THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: June 28, 2022

Subject: Funding for Opioid Epidemic Response

Staff Resource(s): Nikki Reid, Community and Economic Development Director
Emily Ball, Homeless Services System Performance Lead

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Dogwood Health Trust to accept $375,500 for a multi-year staff position and technical assistance to develop a strategic response to the opioid epidemic with a focus on implementation of funds received through the National Opioid Settlement, and approval of a budget amendment in the City's Special Revenue Fund to budget the funds from Dogwood Health Trust for all personnel and technical assistance costs related to opioid epidemic response in the Homeless Strategy Division of the Community and Economic Development Department.

Background:

- The City is receiving a total of $1,519,518 in funding from the National Opioid Settlement, and expects to maximize the impact of these funds through strategic and coordinated efforts with Buncombe County and other key community partners.
- To achieve this goal, the City is proposing to hire a multi-year staff position within the Homeless Strategy Division of the Community and Economic Development Department to work with partners to develop a strategic plan and lead utilization of the settlement funds.
- Because of the correlation between the opioid epidemic and housing instability, this position will work closely with other departmental initiatives related to the intersecting issues of homelessness, affordable housing, and economic development.
- Dogwood Health Trust issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) open to local governments receiving opioid settlement funds to support planning activities to help make best use of settlement funds.
- The RFP allowed for grants of up to $300,000 per year for a maximum of two years.
- City staff submitted a proposal of $187,750 per year for two years to create a temporary staff position and provide for technical assistance.
- Dogwood Health Trust has awarded the City the full requested amount, for a total grant award of $375,500.
- The first disbursement of $187,750 will occur within 30 days of signing the grant agreement.
- The second disbursement of $187,750 will occur in July 2023.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- N/A

Council Goal(s):

- Quality affordable housing

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- Enables the City to best leverage new resources in response to the opioid epidemic
- Provides additional staff capacity and technical assistance resources to strategically and collaboratively respond to the opioid epidemic more holistically

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- Requested action will accept grant funding from Dogwood Health Trust to be applied in FY2023 and FY2024.
- No City match is required.

Suggested Motions:

- Motion to approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Dogwood Health Trust to accept funding to develop a strategic response to the opioid epidemic.
- Motion to approve a budget amendment in the City's Special Revenue Fund in the amount of $375,500 to budget a grant from Dogwood Health Trust for all personnel and technical assistance costs related to opioid epidemic response in the Homeless Strategy Division of the Community and Economic Development Department.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution
- Budget Ordinance

RESOLUTION NO. 22-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH DOGWOOD HEALTH TRUST TO ACCEPT FUNDING TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC RESPONSE TO THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to N.C.G.S. 160A-11 and 160A-20.1 to acquire grants for use by the City or any department of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville will be receiving $1,519,158 from the national opioid settlement; and

WHEREAS, Dogwood Health Trust has made grants available to local governments for planning efforts to maximize use of opioid settlement funds; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has applied for and been awarded a grant of $375,500 over two years to create a temporary staff position and allow for technical assistance to develop a strategic response to the opioid epidemic;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Dogwood Health Trust to accept funding to develop a strategic response to the opioid epidemic in the amount of $375,500.

Read, approved and adopted this the 28th day of June, 2022.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. _____

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

That Section 2 of the City of Asheville Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget Ordinance be amended to provide an appropriation of $375,500 as follows:

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Revenues:

Private Donations	$375,500
Total Revenues	$375,500

Appropriations:

Personnel	$175,500
Contracted Services	$200,000
Total Expenditures	$375,500

That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon the date of final passage.

Read, approved and adopted this 28th day of June, 2022.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney