

June 11th, 2024 FAC Questions - Issues Matrix

Council Questions	Staff Response
Council President Kritzer asked if use of opioid settlement dollars for human services programs would align with restrictions.	Staff has identified potential programs that if recommended for funding, would meet the criteria under the Opiate Abatement Strategies. Staff has also followed up with agency directors to identify and confirm which specific strategies align with the services being provided.
Council President Kritzer asked if some of the opioid settlement money could be used for public safety/mental health.	Yes.
Council President Kritzer requested the Human Services Commission's proposed funding recommendation.	The recommended funding strategy for Human Services grants was shared with the City Council during the June 11 Finance, Administration, and Communication Committee of the Whole meeting. The Human Services Commission will present its proposed grant funding recommendation at a Study Session currently scheduled for October 22.
Council Member Stuart asked how the Human Services Commission would think about using the settlement money. Would they want to expand existing programs? Would they want to fund new programs?	For 2025-2026, staff is proposing that opiate funding be used to invest in existing programs that align with abatement strategies. In addition, staff has identified a new program in partnership with Lake Washington School District to support increased connections to therapy as allowed under Strategy C-11.
Committee Chair Fields is concerned that the dollars would be used for other things like education. He wants the funds to be used to help the people who were damaged and hurt by opioid use.	The abatement strategies allow for funding to be spent on a range of activities, including treatment and prevention. Staff will ensure that any grant funding proposed by the Human Services Commission for use of opioid dollars will comply with the allowed abatement strategies.
Council Vice President Forsythe asked what part of the settlement money could be used for alternative crisis response.	Funds could be used to support individuals served through an alternative crisis response program, under Strategy D-1(f).
Council Vice President Forsythe asked if the money will be fairly stable over the 17 years.	Yes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025: \$500,000* • 2026: \$300,000* • 2027- 2038: \$254,695/year *Includes prior awards.