



## Richland County Health & Human Services

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*Tricia Clements, Director*

To: Public Notification – Grant Program

Date: August 28, 2024

Richland County is expected to receive up to \$489,794 through the end of 2038 of Opioid Settlement Funds. In February of 2023, the Richland County Health and Human Services/Veterans Standing Committee approved the creation of a committee to determine the best way to serve the community utilizing these funds. The committee was led by Health & Human Services (HHS) and was comprised of community stakeholders, community AODA professionals, and county employees including staff from: HHS, Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office, Child Support, and the Courts, and the Richland Center Police Department.

The committee met in April, July, September and November of 2023 and again in May of 2024. After reviewing the Richland County Opioid Settlement Funds Use Assessment, completed by Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Three primary goals were identified; prevention, treatment and recovery.

Prevention activities educate and support individuals and communities to reduce the risk that individuals will begin using or misusing opioids. Investment in proactive measures reduce the need for reactive measures.

Treatment includes measures to help individuals stop using opioids, stay drug-free, and be productive in the family, at work and in society. The Needs Assessment found that in Richland County, the need for treatment exceeds the capacity.

Recovery is about returning people to lifestyles that are productive and functioning in their family, workplace, and communities. The first steps in long-lasting recovery are preventing overdose deaths and finding treatment options. There needs to be an understanding that the recovery process happens slowly. Part of supporting those in recovery is removing barriers to long term recovery, providing life skills, education and guidance.

The Needs Assessment provided three recommendations to achieve these goals.

1. Increase capacity of existing services within the designated agencies.
2. Task a person or a position with coordinating the existing resources either in Richland County, or regionally so that information is more widely available and not in "silos."
3. Find ways to help remove or reduce barriers.

The committee had brainstorming sessions to determine the best utilization of the funds. In the end, it was determined that the best utilization of the funds would be to offer grants to the community through an application process, allowing for the prevention, treatment and/or recovery of opioid drug use and its

various effects. Since these funds will be available over a period of 14 years, the needs of the community may change and the utilization of these funds may also change. Ultimately, the applicant must address how the proposed grant would meet the needs of the community related to Opioid Use.

**When to apply:**

Applications can be turned in at any time to the Director of Richland County Health and Human Services. Grant applications will be reviewed twice a year (November and May) by the Community and Health Services Committee, with final approval by the full county board.

**Who can apply:**

Richland County non-profit organizations and those that serve Richland County residents, businesses in Richland County, schools (including Richland Center, Ithaca, Weston, River Valley, Riverdale, and Kickapoo) and local governmental agencies.

**Eligible projects:**

Projects that support efforts to educate, train, reduce, and prevent harm from consequences of opioids. Funds can also be used to support those that work directly with individuals who are impacted by the Opioid Epidemic. Please refer to page 116 of [Final Distributor Settlement Agreement](#) to see the full list of opioid remediation eligibility.

**Application process:**

Applications are to be submitted to the Director of Richland County HHS. The Richland County Community and Health Services Committee will review all applications. This committee will then submit final recommendations to the full county board for their approval. Once a project is awarded, they are allowed to start the month following the award being granted.

All applicants must be present at the Richland County Community and Health Services Committee meeting to answer questions. Awards will generally be between \$1000 and \$25,000. Projects can be renewed annually if funding allows and all reporting requirements have been met.

If a Richland County Department requests funds, the request can be made directly to the Richland County Community and Health Services Committee to expediate time specific requests.

**Grant award:**

Grant funds will be distributed quarterly on a reimbursement model unless otherwise approved by the full county board. All projects must be operational within three years of the project start date.

**Grant reporting:**

Quarterly reports are to be submitted to Director of HHS and will be shared with the Richland County Health and Community Services Committee. Reports are to be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month in January, April, July and October. Payment will be made by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month. Report templates and reimbursement processes will be shared once funding has been approved.