

FORSYTH COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 18, 2018

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 8

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT, IF AWARDED, A LOCAL MITIGATION TO THE OPIOID CRISIS GRANT THROUGH THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, INJURY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION BRANCH
(FORSYTH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH)**

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS:

Recommend Approval

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch released a Request for Applications (#A361) entitled, "Emergency Overdose: Local Mitigation to the Opioid Crisis for Local Health Departments and Districts".

The request allows local health departments and districts to seek one-time, federal funds up to \$100,000 to advance one or more strategies identified in the North Carolina Opioid Action Plan. The five approved strategies supported by the RFA are:

1. Establish or expand syringe exchange program(s) (SEPs);
2. Connect justice-involved persons to harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services;
3. Establish post-overdose response team(s);
4. Advance Fair Chance Hiring policies and protocols; and
5. Expand or establish housing first or rapid re-housing and retention services.

Forsyth County Public Health, Emergency Services and Twin City Harm Reduction propose to seek funding under Strategy 1, above. In Forsyth County, Twin City Harm Reduction has operated a harm reduction program for the past eighteen months. Harm Reduction exchanges clean needles for dirty needles, provides dirty needle disposal, clean and sterile supplies to prevent infection, peer support to navigate a user into treatment, naloxone, and literature and education materials about help options and how to prevent the spread of disease. Public Health supports the program by sending POSSE staff to provide testing for HIV/Hepatitis and other diseases. The Harm Reduction program operates out of Green Street Church and the program currently has one part-time position.

The grant proposal would fund three part-time positions at Twin City Harm Reduction, the County's purchase of allowable supplies, advertisement, and administration of this grant. This grant would not fund the purchase of either syringes or naloxone.

If the application is approved, the only item to return to the Board would be a Budget Ordinance Amendment to allocate the grant funds.

ATTACHMENTS: YES NO

SIGNATURE: J. Dudley Watts, Jr. /AMS

COUNTY MANAGER

DATE: October 16, 2018

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT, IF AWARDED, A LOCAL MITIGATION TO THE OPIOID CRISIS GRANT THROUGH THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, INJURY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION BRANCH (FORSYTH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH)

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch released a Request for Applications entitled, "Emergency Overdose: Local Mitigation to the Opioid Crisis for Local Health Departments and Districts"; and

WHEREAS, the request for applications allowed local health departments and districts to seek one-time, federal funds of up to \$100,000 to advance one or more strategies identified in the North Carolina Opioid Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Forsyth County Department of Public Health, in collaboration with Emergency Services and Twin City Harm Reduction, proposes to apply for funding under Strategy 1, "Establish or expand syringe exchange program(s) (SEPs)";

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Manager and Clerk to the Board to execute, on behalf of Forsyth County, the necessary documents to submit a Request for Application for a Local Mitigation to the Opioid Crisis Grant through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch in the amount of \$100,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners that the Chairman or County Manager and Clerk to the Board are hereby authorized to execute, on behalf of Forsyth County, necessary documents to receive grant funds, if awarded, from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch to support the expansion of a syringe exchange program through Twin City Harm Reduction, subject to a pre-audit certificate thereon, by the Chief Financial Officer, where applicable, and approval as to form and legality by the County Attorney.

Adopted this 18th day of October 2018.