



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
OFFICE OF THE
CITY MANAGER

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To: Ande Banks, City Manager

From: Luke Morgan, Grants Program Manager

Subject: Resolution of Support and Authorization for Virginia Opioid Authority Cooperative Partnership Grant Applications

Date: April 17, 2023

Summary: The mission of the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) is to abate and remediate the opioid epidemic in the Commonwealth through financial support in the form of grants, donations, or other assistance. Financial assistance offered through the OAA consists of settlement funds paid to Virginia by prescription opioid manufacturers and companies in the prescription opioid distribution network. The OAA operates a financial assistance program to support certain cooperative partnerships of cities and/or counties in Virginia that implement regional efforts to treat, prevent, and reduce opioid use disorder and the misuse of opioids. Rockingham County and the City of Harrisonburg have committed to work together to develop and jointly submit applications for regional cooperative partnership funding from the OAA.

Background: The City and County seek to jointly submit applications for cooperative partnership funding from the OAA for two projects.

- Enhance and expand the capacity of the regional mental health Crisis Intervention Team Assessment Center (CITAC); and
- Ensure continued provision of and further enhance the regional Crisis Response Unit (CRU) consisting of a certified mental health clinician and a Rockingham County Sheriff's Deputy.

The CITAC, located at Sentara RMH, serves both Harrisonburg and Rockingham County and provides emergency crisis assessment for individuals under emergency custody orders (ECOs) and temporary detention orders (TDOs), as well as individuals seeking voluntary assessment. The Rockingham County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) currently staffs the CITAC Monday through Friday from 4pm - midnight. OAA funds will be used to expand coverage to 24/7. Expanding the hours of operation will better align the CITAC with best practices recommendations for 24/7 crisis assessment center operations. If the funds are awarded, the CITAC will also expand screening and tracking for substance use (including opioid use), and distribute material on treatment and harm reduction outreach efforts (e.g., medically assisted treatment, Naloxone, fentanyl test strips, etc.).

The CRU, serving both Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, consists of a certified mental health clinician and a law enforcement officer who provide support to first responders and individual follow-up, including wellness checks and emergency case management. The CRU is an effective and efficient way to enhance support for individuals with mental health disorders or co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders and divert these individuals from arrest and hospitalization. OAA funds will be used to ensure continuation of the CRU by covering the salaries and benefits for 1 full-time CRU law enforcement officer and 1 full-time CRU clinician. The grant currently funding salaries and benefits for these positions expires in October 2023. If the funds are awarded, the CRU will also expand screening and tracking for substance use (including opioid use), and distribute material on treatment and harm reduction outreach efforts (e.g., medically assisted treatment, Naloxone, fentanyl test strips, etc.).



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The City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County seek a total of \$85,000 for the CITAC project and \$150,000 for the CRU project in OAA partnership funding for Fiscal Year 2024. Rockingham County has agreed to serve as the fiscal agent for the cooperative partnership grants if awarded.

The OAA allows cities and counties to optionally appropriate a portion of their OAA Individual Distribution to a cooperative partnership project. If the resolution is approved, the City will commit to allocate \$19,632 of its Individual Distribution from the OAA to the CITAC project and \$39,264 of its Individual Distribution from the OAA to the CRU project for Fiscal Year 2024.

Key Issues: Support of the joint City and County applications for the Virginia Opioid Authority Cooperative Partnership Grant

Environmental Impact: None

Fiscal Impact: None

Alternatives: (a) Adopt the Resolution Support and Authorization for Virginia Opioid Authority Cooperative Partnership Grant Applications; or,
(b) or decline to support the Resolution

Community Engagement: None