



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

2R

Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: February 24, 2026

Title of Item: Purpose Driven (PD) Recovery Homes Opioid Funding Request - Rent Gap

<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft)	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing* <small>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</small>
Submitted by: Kelli Crowther, PHN, Opioid Coordinator		Department: Aitkin County H&HS- Public Health
Presenter (Name and Title): Kelli Crowther, PHN, Opioid Coordinator or Erin Melz, PH Supervisor		Estimated Time Needed: 0
Summary of Issue: <p>Final approval of funding application on behalf of Purpose Driven (PD) Recovery Homes.</p> <p>This application was reviewed and approved with amended criteria by the Opioid Subcommittee on February 10, 2026.</p> <p>Project: PD Recovery Homes Initial Rent and Gap Funding</p> <p>Overview from Application: We have a candidate for our Men's Recovery home who works enough to render him ineligible for housing support and cannot afford first month's rent and security deposit to admit to our recovery home. He also is in need of help with rents for a few months ongoing to help him get housed and settled in. These funds will not all be used for this one candidate, but available for others like him who have the same circumstances.</p> <p>Amended Criteria for Funding: The subcommittee approved the application with an amended funding amount and have agreed to support a maximum funding of \$5,000 over the next 6 months. They would agree to fund a resident's rent for up to \$400 per month for a maximum of 6 months or \$2,400 per resident. They do not support paying the deposit. This funding would be invoiced on a monthly basis as needed and would be available for any person seeking residence at PD Recovery Homes. At the end of the 6 months or the \$5,000 is exhausted, we would like to hear back on how many people were helped and hear more about the structure and expectations of residents in the homes.</p>		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments: 		
Recommended Action/Motion: Approve up to \$5,000 invoiced monthly over the next 6 months for rent payment for those ineligible for housing support up to \$400 per month for a maximum of 6 months or \$2,400 per resident funded with Opioid Settlement Funds to PD Recovery.		
Financial Impact: Is there a cost associated with this request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ Is this budgeted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Please Explain: Opioid Settlement Funds will be used to support this project.		

Contact:

Please direct all correspondence to the contact information provided below.

Kelli Crowther, PHN

Aitkin County Public Health
((218) 927-7267

Kelli.crowther@aitkincountymn.gov



2025

Opioid Settlement (OS) Funding Application

Section 1: Applicant Information

Date	12/30/25
Organization Name	Purpose Driven Recovery Homes
Street Address	
Mailing Address <i>if different</i>	PO Box 47
City, State, Zip Code	Aitkin, MN 56431
County	Aitkin

Primary Contact	Kory O'Neil
Phone	218-820-1207
Email	PDRRecoveryHomes@outlook.com

Financial Contact	Kory O'Neil
Tax ID/SSN	39-4169964
Phone	218-820-1207
Email	PDRRecoveryHomes@outlook.com

Information provided in this application may be used for promotional materials. This includes, but is not limited to: fact sheets, Minnesota Department of Health reports, newsletters, social media posts, and media releases. Additional information may be requested by Aitkin County Public Health e.g. a release might be requested for individuals in photographs.



By checking this box, you acknowledge and accept the statement above.

PROJECT NAME:	Initial Rent and Gap Funding
Brief Overview	
We have a candidate for our Men's Recovery home who works enough to render him ineligible for housing support and cannot afford first month's rent and security deposit to admit to our recovery home. He also is in need of help with rents for a few months ongoing to help him get housed and settled in. These funds will not all be used for this one candidate, but available for others like him who have the same circumstances.	
Funding Request	16,000

Section 2: Project Category

Each project/request must fall within one or more of the following mitigation categories. Select one or more of the categories that best match your project.

Treatment

Support treatment of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and any co-occurring Substance Use Disorder or Mental Health condition through evidenced based or evidence informed programs or strategies. Examples may include:

- Treat OUD
- Support People in Recovery
- Connect People who need help connecting to the services they need (connections to care i.e. transportation)
- Address the needs of criminal justice-involved persons
- Address the needs of the perinatal population, caregivers, and families including babies with neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome
- Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) such as methadone, buprenorphine or naloxone.

Prevention

Support efforts to prevent over-prescribing and ensure appropriate prescribing and dispensing of opioids through evidenced based or evidenced informed programs. Support efforts to discourage misuse of opioids through evidence based or evidenced informed programs. Examples may include:

- Training for health care providers
- Continuing Medical Education on appropriate prescribing of opioids
- Media campaigns to prevent misuse
- Funding evidence-based prevention programs in schools
- Upstream education on the harm of other addictive and harmful substances such as alcohol, tobacco or marijuana.

Harm Reduction

Harm reduction is a set of ideas and interventions that seek to reduce the harms associated with both drug use and ineffective, racialized drug policies. Harm reduction stands in stark contrast to a punitive approach to problematic drug use—it is based on acknowledging the dignity and humanity of people who use drugs and bringing them into a community of care in order to minimize negative consequences and promote optimal health and social inclusion. Examples of Harm Reduction may include:

- Support Services for children and families affected by substance use disorders.
- Overdose Prevention including distribution of Narcan, Fentanyl test strips, safe use education materials and increased access to proven effective and promising overdose prevention practices utilized in other counties and states.
- Community education to reduce the stigma around OUD

Research and Training

Support opioid abatement research and training. Examples may include:

- Funding for staff training or networking programs and services to improve the capability of government, community, and not for profit entities to abate the opioid crisis.
- Monitoring, surveillance, data collection and evaluation of programs and strategies described in this opioid abatement strategy list.
- Research non-opioid treatment of chronic pain.
- Research on novel harm reduction and prevention efforts such as the provision of fentanyl test strips.

Section 3: Guiding Principles

Each project/request must be guided by the following five principles set forth by the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Please indicate which of these principals apply to your program. You do not have to meet all of the guiding principles.

- Spend Money to Save Lives.
 - OS dollars will be used on a specific project and not to fill budget gaps or shortfalls in other programs. OS dollars are being used to expand on an existing evidenced based program or initiative.

- Use Evidence to Guide Spending
 - There is evidence to support expansion of an existing program. This could include an initiative or program that was not successful but there are learned outcomes that could be successful.

- Invest in Youth Prevention
 - This program supports, children, youth and families in effective programs.

- Focus on Racial Equity
 - This program serves a specific demographic or underserved population in our community. Check one.
 - Socioeconomic
 - Veterans
 - Other _____
 - Seniors
 - Homeless
 - LGBTQ
 - Youth
 - Black/Indigenous/People of Color

- Develop a Fair and Transparent Process for Spending Funds
 - There is a process in place for clear and transparent use of OS dollars

Please Note:

It is the Applicant's sole responsibility to keep clear and detailed records that demonstrate the OS dollars requested were used for the amount and purpose(s) outlined in the initial application. Aitkin County Public Health and/or the Minnesota Attorney Generals Office, reserves the right to audit the Applicants records at any time without prior notice.

Section 4: Work plan and Goals

Give a detailed description of your project work plan and goal. List your goals related to the project. Include planned activities to meet these goals, intended timeline and responsible individual(s). Add rows as needed.

Our goal is to help those who may not qualify for housing support still be granted admittance to our recovery home setting for ongoing support and accountability as they continue their journey of sobriety. This fund will be invoiced monthly for any applicant that cannot pay their share of program dues/rent for the month they stayed at the recovery residence. This fund may be used to pay deposits and first month's rent along with a portion of ongoing rents not to exceed six months per resident or a total of \$4000 per resident. The current resident in need is an Aitkin County resident who is on probation here and needs to reside in Aitkin County. Aiding his recovery through sustainable housing will positively impact the community by keeping a local factory worker here and housed. The other \$12,000 requested for approval would be on an as needed basis for other applicants like this one. Initial invoice would be for the first month's rent and security deposit.

ACTIVITIES TO ACCOMPLISH GOAL(S)	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL(S)
Initial request for housing current self-pay applicant	January 2026	Owner/Operators

Section 5:Evaluation:

If your request is \$25,000 or more please complete this section. If it is under \$25,000 you do not need to complete this section. What would indicate to you that this project was successful? How will you measure progress or change? Describe your anticipated impact(s). Add rows as needed.

Project Outcomes	How will you measure these changes?	What will you do with these results?

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY: Identify how you will work to sustain the project beyond the initial funding.

Section 6: Budget and Funding Request

Please complete the total project funding table below. **If line A is an overall cost please include an itemized list totaling the cost. You can also attach your own detailed budget.**

Total Project Funding Table

A) How much funding are you requesting from the Aitkin County Opioid Settlement Funds?	\$ 16000
B) Do you anticipate any additional funding for this project? <i>Include other grants, donations, fundraised amounts, budgeted dollars, etc.</i>	\$
C) How much do you or a partner anticipate contributing in-kind to the project? <i>Include staff/volunteer time, etc.</i>	\$
Total Project Cost <i>(should equal the sum of the 3 lines above)</i>	\$ 16000

Submit your completed application via email to kelli.crowther@aitkincountymn.gov
Please put **OS Application** in the subject line.