



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 11/19/2019

New Business

Department: Budget

Presenter(s): Jennifer Barnette, Budget

Contact(s): Stoney Blevins, HHS; Jennifer Barnette, Budget

Subject: Safer Together Grant

Brief Summary:

Buncombe County has been awarded \$878,803 in grant funding from the U. S. Department of Justice under the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based Program. The project period is from October 01, 2019 to September 30, 2022. The grant proposal requires a county contribution in the amount of \$73,006 in fringe benefits associated with grant funded positions. Health and Human services will identify from their existing budget the dollars to cover the county contribution.

The mission of Safer Together is to provide wrap around psychological, medical and social determinant supports to persons at high risk of overdose from opioids, or those who have recently overdosed. The goals are to decrease the overdose death rate in Buncombe County, increase medication assisted housing and treatment options for people who use or have recently used opioids, and decrease the burden of the opioid overdose and infectious disease epidemics to the local medical system. Grant activities will include: 1) Utilizing a Post-Overdose Response Team (Quick Response or Rapid Response) model to engage individuals who have overdosed within the past 24-72 hours in counseling, Medication Assisted Treatment, Naloxone training, peer support case management, and infectious disease prevention and intervention. 2) Coupling this approach with 15 housing slots a year for individuals in this program and for those coming out of the jails who are undergoing Medication Assisted Treatment. 3) Paying for medication for up to 50 participants a year and purchasing a software application that makes finding and engaging with local treatment options quick and easy for participants and staff.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action:

Approve Budget Amendment

County Manager's comments and Recommendation:

County Manager recommends as presented.