

ORDINANCE NO.

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO. 55 - 2023

INTRODUCED BY

JUNE 13, 2023

AN ORDINANCE

Amending the 2023 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Hundred Four Thousand and Ninety-Six Dollars and Thirty-Eight Cents (\$104,098.38) to the Opioid Settlement revenue account (000-5216) to fund a third Hospital Opioid Support Team (HOST) position through Lehigh County Drug & Alcohol. This will allow for 24-hour coverage in City of Allentown hospitals to connect substance use overdose victims with appropriate care.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN:

SECTION ONE: That City Council authorizes a supplemental appropriation of One Hundred Four Thousand and Ninety-Six Dollars and Thirty-Eight Cents (\$104,098.38) to the following account:

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Opioid Settlement</b> |                      |
| 000-5216                 | <b>\$ 104,098.38</b> |

SECTION TWO: That City Council authorizes a supplemental appropriation of One Hundred Four Thousand and Ninety-Six Dollars and Thirty-Eight Cents (\$104,098.38) to the following account:

|                          |                                |                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>CED</b>               |                                |                      |
| <b>Health</b>            |                                |                      |
| <b>Injury Prevention</b> |                                |                      |
| 000-09-0908-0002-46      | <b>Other Contract Services</b> | <b>\$ 104,098.38</b> |

SECTION THREE: That this Ordinance will take effect ten (10) days after final passage.

SECTION FOUR: That all Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

## Legislative Template

- What department or bureau is this bill originating from? Where did the initiative for the bill originate?

This bill originates from DCED, Health

- Summary and facts of the bill.

In fall of 2022, the City of Allentown was notified it will be receiving Opioid lawsuit settlement funds from opioid distributors as well as Johnson & Johnson over the next 17 years. In year 1, the City of Allentown has been sent \$104,096.38. With year 1 funds, the Allentown Health Bureau would like to fund a third Hospital Opioid Support Team HOST position through Lehigh County Drug & Alcohol so there is 24 coverage in City of Allentown hospitals to connect substance use overdose victims to appropriate care.

- Purpose – Please include the following in your explanation:
  - a. What does the bill do? What are the specific goals or tasks the bill seeks to accomplish?

This bill will fund a third shift, 365 day a year HOST position to work in and with City hospitals. The Hospital Opioid Support Team (HOST) is responsible for screening and assessing individuals who present at City of Allentown and Lehigh County hospitals with overdoses. This allows for a "warm handoff" from hospital care to drug & alcohol rehabilitation care. The warm-handoff program was developed as a Department of Drug and Alcohol Program for overdose survivors but has expanded to include any individuals who present to the hospital with a drug or alcohol issue. The program has averaged almost 700 inpatient and withdrawal management (detox) placements each year in the county with more than 60% coming from the City of Allentown.

- b. What are the benefits of doing this? What are the drawbacks?

The HOST program currently receives 1,700 referrals every year - in excess of 60% come from the three hospitals located within the City of Allentown. The HOST program has been highly successful; however, the County has not been able to secure overnight staffing during the hours of midnight to 8 am. With the City's allocation of settlement funds, the program can operate 24 hours per day, 365 days a year so no one that presents in a City hospital with an overdose is not missed in attempting to connect them with care.

- c. How does this bill relate to the City's vision/mission/priorities?

Getting City of Allentown residents dealing with substance use disorder connected to care will make the City a healthier place and move towards the goals of getting people into treatment for the substance use disorder as well as helping bring an end to the opioid crisis in the City.

- Financial Impact – Please include the following in your explanation:
  - a. Cost (initial and ongoing)

There is no cost to the general fund - we will be allocating \$104,096.38 money in year one that will be allocated to the HOST position, invoiced monthly by Lehigh County. The partnership will be evaluated after year 1 to assess continuation of funding.

- b. Benefits (initial and ongoing)  
Individuals being treated for acute overdose in City and County hospitals will have the ability to connect to an appropriate level of care no matter what time of day they are admitted.
- Funding Sources – Please include the following in your explanation:
  - a. If transferring funds, please make sure to give specific account names and numbers. If appropriating funds from a grant, please list the agency awarding the grant.

Year 1 Opioid settlement funds from Johnson & Johnson and opioid distributors.

- Priority status – Are there any deadlines to be aware of?

None

- Why should Council unanimously support this bill?

This will cover as gap in services that is desperately needed for people overdosing from substance use in the City of Allentown.