

Position Paper for Agenda Item

To: Cumberland County Board of Commissioners

From: Liz Blackwell-Moore

Date: 3/3/26

Subject: Proposal in response to the State of Maine's Substance Use Disorder Assistance Program RFP

Requested Action

Authorize the County Manager to submit a proposal to the State of Maine Department of Public Safety in response to the FY 27 Substance Use Disorder Assistance Program Request for Applications

Background and Purpose of Request

The Maine Department of Public Safety is planning to release a Request for Applications for the FY 2027 Substance Use Disorder Assistance Program. While the RFA has not been released, we believe the turnaround time on a proposal could be as short as two weeks so we are asking for authorization to submit a proposal based on our knowledge of the program and being a recipient of the funds since 2023. The purpose of the program is to assist persons with presumed substance use disorder using liaison strategies both before and after arrest to refer alleged low-level (non-felony) offenders into community-based treatment and support services. The program will most likely run from April 1, 2026-March 31, 2027. The Department of Public Safety anticipates making multiple awards with \$500,000 in available funding.

The Department of Public Safety's Substance Use Disorder Assistance Program has funded the Pathways of HOPE program since 2023 – a collaboration between the Cumberland County Public Health Department and the Portland Recovery Community Center. To date, this program has served over 580 Cumberland County residents and supplied nearly 800 months of recovery housing to persons in the program. The County Public Health Department and PRCC are working on a proposal in response to the RFA with a proposed budget of around \$250,000 to be spent in one year. No matching funds are required and no additional county funding will be needed to complete the requirements of the grant. The purpose of this Position Paper is to inform the Commissioners of the plan to apply for the Substance Use Disorder Assistance funding and receive authorization to submit.

Funding Amount and Source

none

Effective Date

March 30, 2026

Attachments

- Staff memo on SUD Assistance Program RFA
- Grant Authorization Form Signed