

February 16, 2026

TO: Behavioral Health  
Advisory & Recommendation Committee (ARC)

FROM: RuthAnne Hall, Assistant County Administrator  
Ashley Watson, Opioid Coordinator, County Administration

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On Monday, February 23rd, the Behavioral Health Advisory and Recommendations Committee (ARC) will convene to review funding recommendations for the renewal of grant programs supported by the Lake County Opioid Settlement Funds (OSF).

The Opioid Settlement Funds were awarded to Lake County through a national multistate settlement with entities involved in the prescription opioid supply chain. These funds are designated to support opioid remediation efforts across the county, including care, treatment, prevention, harm reduction, and related strategies designed to: address the misuse and abuse of opioid products; treat or mitigate opioid use disorder and related conditions; and lessen the broader impacts of the opioid crisis on individuals, families, and communities.

The Lake County Opioid Workgroup, comprised of representatives from multiple county departments and community partners, provides oversight of the Opioid Settlement Funds and guides funding priorities and strategic decision-making. The recommendations outlined in this memorandum have been reviewed by the full Workgroup and reflect consensus among its members.

In 2025, \$500,000 in Opioid Settlement Funds were allocated to grant programs aligned with the County's priority funding methodology as outlined in the Lake County Opioid Settlement Strategy Report. For Program Year 2026 (PY26), current grantees were invited to submit renewal applications to continue implementation of these efforts. All but one PY25 grantee submitted a renewal request.

Following review and evaluation, a total of \$405,000 is recommended to support the continuation of these programs for PY26.

Program	PY 2025 Award	Score	Request	Recommendation	PY 2026 Award
TASC, Inc (Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities): Specialized Case Management & Harm Reduction Program	\$90,000	91%	\$100,000	Renew + Increase	\$100,000
Erie Family Health Centers: Erie HealthReach SUTS Initiative	\$37,292	89%	\$50,000	Renew + Increase	\$50,000
Reading and Math, Inc. DBA Ampact: Recovery Corps Illinois	\$90,000	77%	\$100,000	Renew + Increase	\$100,000
Lake County Haven: Trauma Intervention	\$31,200	77%	\$98,700	Renew + Increase	\$65,000
Nicasa Behavioral Health Services: Round Lake Area Overdose Prevention	\$90,000	83%	\$90,000	Renew as is	\$90,000
Northern Illinois Recovery Community Organization: Recovery Empowers Project	\$71,508	N/A	N/A	No Application for Renewal Consideration	N/A
SGA Youth & Family Services: Brighter Days	\$90,000	63%	\$90,000	Continue	\$-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>		<b>\$528,700</b>		<b>\$405,000</b>

## **2026 Opioid Response Funding Recommendations according to Strategy**

### **Renewals:**

#### **Strategy 1: Harm Reduction**

- Erie Family Health Center: Erie HealthReach SUTS Initiative
- Nicasa Behavioral Health Services: Round Lake Area Overdose Prevention
- TASC, Inc. (Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities): Specialized Case Management & Harm Reduction Program

#### **Strategy 2: Case Management and System Navigation**

- Erie Family Health Center: Erie HealthReach SUTS Initiative
- Nicasa Behavioral Health Services: Round Lake Area Overdose Prevention
- TASC, Inc. (Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities): Specialized Case Management & Harm Reduction Program

#### **Strategy 3: Recovery Services**

- Lake County Haven: A Safer Path
- Reading and Math, Inc. DBA Ampact: Recovery Corps Illinois
- TASC, Inc. (Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities): Specialized Case Management & Harm Reduction Program

### **Continue to Exhaust PY 2025 Funding:**

#### **Strategy 1: Harm Reduction**

#### **Strategy 2: Case Management and System Navigation**

- SGA Youth & Family Services: Brighter Days

#### **Strategy 3: Recovery Services**

- Northern Illinois Recovery Community Organization (NIRCO): Recovery Support Empowers Project

FINAL SCORING GUIDANCE			
% Score	Funding Recommendation	Justification	Cut-off Rationale
85–100%	FUND + INCREASE	Outcomes are strong Priority communities are actually being served Sustainability progress is real	Renewals often involve real-world constraints (staff turnover, referral fluctuations, policy changes). A program can be performing very well and still have a minor variance, so 85% is a defensible “high bar without demanding perfection.”
70–84%	FUND AS IS + CONSIDER FOR INCREASE	Good outcomes, weak sustainability Strong reach to priority areas, inconsistent performance Solid stewardship, but outcomes are moderate	The weaknesses are usually fixable without abandoning the project, especially if it fills a gap in a priority geography/populations.
55–69%	CONTINUE	Outcomes are partial (40–69% target attainment) AND/OR priority reach is limited or poorly documented AND/OR sustainability is weak (planning only) AND/OR reporting/implementation problems exist	Below ~55%, the project typically fails too many basics to justify settlement dollars (especially sustainability and equity). Between 55–69%, it may still have a plausible path if narrowed substantially.
<55%	DO NOT FUND	No credible outcomes evidence Not serving priority communities/populations Weak accountability Budget/fiscal concerns No progress toward sustainability	