

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY-SIXTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-25-180 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Nichole Rogers, Renée Grout and Joaquín Baca, by request

1 RESOLUTION

2 APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO SERVE INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING
3 SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.

4 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque's opioid settlement funding allocation
5 is guided by the recommendations outlined in the List of Opioid Remediation
6 Uses of the settlement agreement in the New Mexico Opioid Allocation
7 Agreement, informed by the Vital Strategies report, and responsive to the
8 targeted eight (8) categories the Local Government Coordinating Commission
9 (LGCC) identified in its Joint Implementation Plan; and

10 WHEREAS, substance use disorders, including opioid dependence, are
11 both a cause and consequence of homelessness, creating a cycle of instability
12 that impacts public health, safety, and quality of life; and

13 WHEREAS, according to the Vital Strategies report, 61% of people
14 experiencing homelessness in Bernalillo County report poly-substance use,
15 often involving opioids, and nearly half have co-occurring mental health
16 conditions; and

17 WHEREAS, people experiencing homelessness are 10 times more likely to
18 die from an opioid overdose than the general population, with fentanyl present
19 in over 70% of toxicology-confirmed overdose deaths among unhoused
20 individuals in 2021; and

21 WHEREAS, housing instability is a major barrier to accessing and retaining
22 treatment, while coordinated housing, outreach, and recovery support have
23 been shown to significantly improve outcomes and reduce emergency service
24 utilization; and

25 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque Community Safety Department's Street
26 Outreach Navigation team, currently staffed with two navigators actively

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1 working with 25 high-needs clients to obtain long-term benefits and secure
2 permanent housing, has engaged 80 individuals to date, successfully housing
3 62 of them — a 78% housing outcome rate; and

4 WHEREAS, expanding street outreach, eviction prevention, and housing
5 stability programs will directly address the intertwined crises of homelessness
6 and substance use disorders, as recommended in the Vital Strategies opioid
7 settlement plan; and

8 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque Community Safety Department has a goal to
9 ensure people of all ages have access to holistic and trauma-informed
10 response to calls for services; and

11 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque has the goal to assertively respond to
12 the homelessness challenges with a diversified public health strategy
13 leveraging both housing assistance and public safety; and

14 WHEREAS, the operation of the Albuquerque Community Safety
15 Department provides the technical means of accomplishing these goals; and

16 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque is desirous of applying for these funds
17 to support operations within the community.

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
19 ALBUQUERQUE:

20 SECTION 1. PROGRAMMING. The Department of Finance and
21 Administrative Serices (DFAS) and the Albuquerque Community Safety
22 Department (ACS) shall create two programs within Fund (201) as follows:

23 (1) Expand Mobile Crisis Response Services

24 (2) Recovery Housing

25 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION. That opioid settlement funds in the amount
26 of \$2,916,162.94 are hereby appropriated from Fund (201).

27 (A) EXPAND MOBILE CRISIS RESPONSE SERVICES (Vital Strategies
28 Recommendation # 13).

29 i. *Intent.* These funds shall be used to expand Street Outreach
30 support. This shall include expanding access to crisis stabilization and
31 wraparound services through Albuquerque Community Safety's Street
32 Outreach and its network of partners.

1 ii. Funds in the amount of \$1,016,162.94 are hereby appropriated for
2 one-time use to the Albuquerque Community Safety Department for these
3 purposes.

4 **(B) RECOVERY HOUSING. (Vital Strategies Recommendation #25**

5 i. *Intent.* These funds shall be used to provide housing support,
6 stability, and eviction prevention services through the Street Outreach
7 program within the Albuquerque Community Safety Department.

8 ii. Funds in the amount of \$1,900,000 are hereby appropriated for
9 one-time use to the Albuquerque Community Safety Department for these
10 purposes.

11 **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.** If any section, paragraph, sentence,
12 clause, word or phrase of this Resolution is for any reason held to be invalid
13 or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall
14 not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Resolution. The
15 Council hereby declares that it would have passed this Resolution and each
16 section, paragraph, sentence, clause, word or phrase thereof irrespective of
17 any provision being declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid.

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