

2023 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Council Budget Action: Agenda

Tab	Action	Option	Version
HSD	605	A	001-2023

Budget Action Title: Request that the Mayor's Office, with the collaboration of HSD, develop a plan to fund addiction treatment using proceeds from the State settlement against opioid medication distributors

Ongoing: No Has Attachment: No

Primary Sponsor: Sara Nelson

Council Members:

Staff Analyst: Ann Gorman

Date		Total	LH	TM	KS	AP	DJ	DS	AL	BC	SN
	Yes	0									
	No	0									
	Abstain	0									
	Absent	0									

Statement of Legislative Intent:

This Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) would request that the Mayor's Office (MO) and Human Services Department (HSD) collaborate on a plan to develop a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process in HSD that would result in the award of funding to one or more facilities for addiction treatment, using a portion of Seattle's anticipated \$14.1 million in proceeds from a settlement against opioid medication distributors.

The State of Washington reached a settlement with McKesson Corp., Cardinal Health Inc., and AmerisourceBergen Drug Corp. in October 2022 for \$518 million. Local jurisdictions that receive a share of the funds must use that share in approved ways, including improving and expanding substance use disorder treatment and supporting people in recovery by providing wrap-around services like housing, transportation, and education.

It is the intent of the Council that some portion of the funding from settlement proceeds would be used to allow the facility or facilities to make addiction treatment available to individuals living in Seattle, and that each facility would submit quarterly reports on program activities. These reports would include how many people were referred to the facility for contract-funded addiction treatment, by whom or what organization they were referred, how many of those referred enrolled for contract-funded addiction treatment, how many people are currently enrolled for such treatment, and how many have completed such treatment.

This Statement of Legislative Intent uses the term addiction treatment as it is defined by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the American Society of Addiction Medicine. According to those bodies, addiction treatment is treatment designed to help people recover from a chemical dependency and that is based on an individualized continuum of care which includes, at a minimum, an evaluation, detoxification and withdrawal stabilization supervised by a healthcare professional, behavioral therapy at a residential ("inpatient") or intensive outpatient treatment facility, and continuing care with a certified addiction-treatment counselor to maintain recovery. MO and HSD are requested to report on the plan to the City Council's Public Safety and Human Services Committee by May 1, 2023.

Responsible Council Committee(s):

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Public Safety and Human Services

Date Due to Council:

May 1, 2023