



CITY of NORTHAMPTON

Department of Health and Human Services

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Northampton Department of
Health & Human Services

For Immediate Release - April 7, 2026

National Public Health Week Begins with Action: Northampton DHHS Launches Opioid Mini-Grants

NORTHAMPTON - The City of Northampton Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) launched an Opioid Settlement Fund (OSF) mini-grant program on April 6, 2026, directing funding to community-based organizations working on the front lines of overdose prevention, harm reduction, treatment access, and recovery.

The launch coincides with National Public Health Week (April 6–12, 2026) — an annual observance led by the American Public Health Association — and reflects this year's theme, *Ready. Set. Action.*, by turning public health priorities into tangible local impact.

“This initiative is about putting resources into the hands of community organizations doing this work every day,” said Northampton DHHS Commissioner Merridith O’Leary. “These mini-grants will support practical, community-driven approaches that reduce harm and save lives.”

The city is committing approximately \$120,000 for this funding cycle. Organizations may apply for up to \$10,000, with a priority deadline of May 15, 2026, and rolling applications accepted as funding allows.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, grassroots groups, service providers, and other community-based entities serving Northampton residents. Funding may support initiatives for prevention, harm reduction, treatment access, and recovery support.

In Northampton, decisions about how these funds are used have been intentionally guided by community voice. The program was informed by input from individuals and families directly impacted by opioid use, as well as service providers and community partners. By incorporating initiatives such as a public survey and key informant interviews conducted with Hampshire HOPE, the city has emphasized the importance of lived experiences in shaping funding strategies that are responsive, equitable, and aligned with genuine community needs. Applications will be evaluated based on community impact, feasibility, and equity, with priority given to populations disproportionately affected by substance use and overdose.

Northampton DHHS Director of Prevention Taylor McDonough will host a virtual information session, during which staff will provide an overview of the program, review eligibility and

application requirements, and answer questions. Community members, organizations, and partners are encouraged to attend. A recording will be available after the session.

Information Session Details:

Date: Friday, April 17, 2026

Time: 12:00pm-1:00pm

Location: Zoom

Join Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/88494997815?signature=PH6pIHWFAIQw2ikmYXuWG-9kriIvYuuProqUlarjx-E>

Meeting ID: 884 9499 7815

Passcode: 686990

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,88494997815#,,,,*686990# US (Chicago)

+16468769923,,88494997815#,,,,*686990# US (New York)

Full program details, application materials, and funding guidance are available at the City's website: <https://www.northamptonma.gov/2736/Opioid-Settlement-Funds-Mini-Grants>. Applications may be completed online, obtained in person at the DHHS Main Office (212 Main Street, Northampton), or requested by calling 413-587-1214. Community members who are unable to attend the information session are encouraged to visit the webpage for full details. For questions or technical assistance, contact Taylor McDonough, Director of Prevention, at tmcdonough@northamptonma.gov.

