



Goodhue County Health and Human Services

Goodhue County Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee Update – November 2025

Following Health and Human Services Board approval of the proposed [2026–2028 Opioid Settlement Budget](#) in August, the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (OSAC) has continued its work to guide the next multi-year grant cycle.

Since August, OSAC finalized its Investment Strategies for 2026–2028, focusing on two key priority areas:

- ***Improve Treatment and Recovery***
- ***Prevention (Increase Awareness, Reduce Stigma, and Promote Harm Reduction)***

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for 2026–2028 projects was launched in September, and OSAC received six applications. During its October meeting, OSAC members reviewed all proposals and heard presentations from applicants. Voting selections have now taken place, and funds have been awarded to two organizations:

RIPple Drug Education & Awareness – RIPple will continue and expand its countywide education, harm reduction, and awareness initiatives related to fentanyl and other illicit substances. The project includes classroom presentations in middle and high schools - fulfilling Minnesota Statute 120B.215 requirements - along with community outreach and naloxone distribution through “little libraries,” events, and public vending or dispenser sites. The program will also launch a countywide media campaign using billboards, radio, theater, and social media to increase awareness and reduce stigma around addiction and recovery. Additional outreach will occur at local events, including the Goodhue County Fair, community health fairs, and an annual awareness walk recognizing National Fentanyl Awareness Day.

Goodhue County Health & Human Services Youth Prevention Team – The Youth Prevention Team will expand and align youth substance use prevention programming across River Bluff Education Center, Tower View Alternative High School, and Red Wing High School. Using the evidence-based Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Strategic Prevention Framework, the project builds upon the youth-led prevention model supported by a dedicated prevention specialist and licensed alcohol and drug counselor. Key components include school-based education, peer-led prevention activities, culturally responsive outreach, and the use of evidence-based interventions such as Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) and the INDEPTH alternative-to-suspension program. The program will also expand after-school opportunities and partnerships with community organizations, including RiseUp and Hispanic Outreach, to engage justice-involved and historically underserved youth.

Following the awards, approximately \$21,000 remained unallocated from the 2026–2028 OSAC budget. OSAC members have elected to allocate these remaining funds equally between the two awardees over the course of the full grant cycle to further support the sustainability and reach of their proposed initiatives.

