

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2302

May 3, 2024

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$1,820,318 in funding for the South Metro Fire Department Community Opioid Response and Education (CORE) Team in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the South Metro Fire Department, located at 1650 Humboldt Avenue, West St. Paul, MN, 55118.

The funding would be used to form an innovative joint CORE team housed by the South Metro Fire Department. The team would include a Community Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist and a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor. The CORE team will proactively help individuals at high risk of opioid overdose. Collaborating with first responders, the county, nonprofits and schools while minimizing involvement with the justice system, the team will remove barriers and provide services and pathways to treatment using a person-centered approach. Funding this plan will lead to new interventions with measurable success to help people out of the opioid use disorder (OUD) cycle and to scale those interventions throughout the State of Minnesota and beyond. The project will improve outcomes for individuals and families, reduce burden on law enforcement resources, decrease incarceration rates, reduce reliance on public financial supports and decrease the negative impacts of opioids on surrounding communities.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars because it would increase public safety, improve public health and forge a new way forward in the battle against OUD.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Angie Craig
Member of Congress