

HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MAYOR

WESTON WAMP

For Immediate Release

November 8, 2023

Contact: Haley Burton, 423-619-5311

Organizations Selected for Opioid Grant Funding Span from Serving Vulnerable Youth to Increasing Access to Behavioral Health Specialists

\$300,000 proposed to be disbursed to local agencies committed to combating the opioid epidemic

Hamilton County Mayor Weston Wamp today announced six organizations who will be awarded funding from the Hamilton County Innovative Response to Opioids Grants, pending approval from the county commission next week. Applications opened in October for outside entities to seek Opioid Abatement Funds as a result of the county receiving millions of dollars from the state of Tennessee over the next two decades.

“The organizations receiving funding will strengthen our community’s response to the ongoing opioid epidemic,” said Hamilton County Mayor Weston Wamp. “From prevention strategies to programming aimed at increasing the number of addiction counselors in our community, we are grateful to the local organizations who stepped forward to join the fight against these deadly drugs.”

A committee composed of Hamilton County government officials and subject matter experts convened last week to review the applications and selected the agencies who demonstrated an innovative or proven approach in reaching individuals and families most affected by the opioid crisis. Nearly \$300,000 will be disbursed to local nonprofits and faith-based agencies by the end of the year. The county will open applications again in Spring of 2024 to distribute additional sfunds.

“I support this effort to immediately put funding into the hands of organizations who are providing critical services to those who need it most,” said Commissioner Joe Graham, who served on the selection committee. “I am hopeful the commission will approve this measure, and thousands of Hamilton County citizens are served from it.”

Organizations Proposed to be Awarded Grant Funding

- **The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga: \$114,355**
UTC is committed to funding a clinical addiction studies certificate program to prepare students for the Tennessee Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor Licensing Exam, as well as a scholarship for the inaugural ten cohort participants. This program will lower barriers to addiction treatment by increasing the number of addiction professionals in Hamilton County.
- **Council for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services (CADAS): \$60,722**

CADAS will enhance the Family Way Program, a trauma-informed treatment program providing support to single pregnant women and mothers who are seeking treatment and recovery from substance use disorder.

- **YMCA of Metro Chattanooga, YCAP Program: \$40,450**
Funding will support YCAP's existing work in assisting vulnerable youth and families with daily and weekly evidence-based activities, as well as pay for a media campaign to raise awareness in the community about the dangers of opioids.
- **Lifestyle Medical Ministry: \$40,000**
Funding will expand the ministry's medication-assisted treatment (MAT) program to low-income, uninsured, or underinsured clients, focusing on medical care and addiction treatment and counseling.
- **John T. Fontaine Jr. Charity, Inc.: \$25,000**
Funding will jumpstart an initiative in Hamilton County Schools called BrainAbouts, an evidence-based prevention program that utilizes an age-appropriate online learning system to teach children and adults how to make positive decisions and prevent consequences of high-risk behaviors.
- **Olivet Baptist Church: \$15,000**
Funding will support planning for the I-Ryze program, which will expand addiction and prevention resources to the homeless community currently served by the church.

###