



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** City of West Allis License & Health Committee

**FROM:** Bob Leischow, MPH | Health Commissioner

**DATE:** April 15, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Communication regarding violence free West Allis project mini-grants

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The West Allis Health Department in collaboration with the Violence Free West Allis Collaborative (VFWAC) launched a small grant program to award community groups and organizations with funds to implement violence and opioid prevention programs and services in West Allis. Funding is made available through the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance "Cardiff" grant that the West Allis Health Department manages and implements in partnership with the Wisconsin Medical College.

To date, the small grant program has awarded \$31,800 to three community organizations.

### **WA|WM Heroin & Opiate Task Force**

The West Allis and West Milwaukee Heroin & Opiate Task Force is made up of community stakeholders with a common interest in opioid and substance use prevention. Using grant funds the Task Force aims to increase percentage of youth in grades 4-7 who will receive evidence-based curriculum directed at violence and substance abuse prevention, reduce the percentage of youth who are feeling isolated and/or are struggling with mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic, and increase resources for families in the Liberty Heights neighborhood.

### **West Allis Fire Department/MIH**

The West Allis Fire Department/Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) team will be expanding their current services through the acquisition of patient tracking software, a tele-health system, and fentanyl test strips. The MIH team along with City and community partners to this point have played a vital role in developing and implementing community outreach programs that have positively impacted the number of substance use disorder incidents and directly aided those suffering from domestic violence.

### **Take Back My Meds**

Take Back My Meds Milwaukee is a coalition of stakeholders working to combat the opioid epidemic by stopping addiction before it starts. The organization aims to expand the network of free, secure medication disposal boxes throughout Milwaukee County. The Take Back My Meds Milwaukee has partnered with Advocate Aurora Health and the West Allis Fire Department to install a medication drop-box at the Aurora clinic on 69th and Greenfield. This location is in the red zone on West Allis's density of violence incidents maps and will exist to serve all residents of West Allis. Additionally, funds have been allocated to develop a training program for the West Allis Fire



Department Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) officers to help local residents safely remove unused prescription medications from their homes by transporting those residents to any West Allis drop box for disposal.