



TOWN OF NEEDHAM
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
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Memorandum

To: Finance Committee
CC: Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager; David Davison, Deputy Town Manager/Director of Finance;
Katie King, Deputy Town Manager
From: Cecilia Simchak, Assistant Director of Finance; Timothy McDonald, Director of Health and
Human Services
Date: October 9, 2024
Re: Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist

This memo is to detail the Article 2 of the October 2024 Special Town Meeting funding request. Approximately \$69,000 of the requested \$82,000 is requested for a Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist. The breakdown of the costs is below.

Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist	
a. Classification:	GT-05
b. FY2026 Top Range:	\$41.72
c. Hours/Week:	37.5
d. Annual Salary	\$81,354
<i>Current Funding from General Fund</i>	
e. FY2025 Budget:	\$30,608
f. Hours/Week:	19.5
g. Total Needed through 11/1	\$9,674
h. Remaining Budget (e-g)	\$20,934
<i>Funding Needed</i>	
i. Funding Needed (d-i)	\$60,420

The additional \$8,580 requested is for fringe benefits. If funded, the position of Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist would continue to utilize the FY2025 operating funds currently allocated in the Department of Health and Human Services budget, in addition to the funds above allocated from the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund to fully fund a full-time position. At the May 2025 Annual Town Meeting, there would be a funding request to continue to fund the Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist entirely out of the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund. For FY2026, the funding (\$30,608), that appears in the Department Budget on the DSR3 Form, would be reallocated to its original intended use as a part-time Substance Use Prevention staff member.

The Opioid Abatement Settlement Funding Strategic Plan, finalized at the end of September 2024, includes a recommendation for expanding peer recovery coach services. This funding request would work towards that recommendation.

Please feel free to reach out with any further questions regarding this process.