COUNTY OF HOUGHTON
97TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
HOUGHTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
401 E. HOUGHTON AVE.
HOUGHTON, MI 49931
(906) 482-4980

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
HON. NICHOLAS J. DAAVETTILA

COURT ADMINISTRATOR/CHIEF MAGISTRATE
KEITH ANDERSON – 482-1285

ASSISTANT MAGISTRATE
KAREN KARINEN – 482-1285

COURT CLERK & MAGISTRATE
NADA WAKEHAM – 482-4980

CIVIL CLERK & MAGISTRATE
DAVID LAMERAND – 482-4980

COURT RECORDER
DELANEY RUOTSALA – 482-4980

PROBATION OFFICERS
JESSICA BRUNET – 482-0066
DEREK POYHONEN – 482-0066

TREATMENT COURT PROGRAM
ANDREA JOHNSON – 482-0066
BLAKE FRANTTI – 319-1846

October 5, 2026

Chelsea Rheault, Administrator
Board of Commissioners
Houghton County
401 E. Houghton Avenue
Houghton, MI 49931

Re: Opioid Funding Request for Treatment Court, Substance-Use Drug Testing, and Community Supervision

Dear Ms. Rheault and Board of Commissioners:

The 97th District Court respectfully requests an allocation of opioid settlement funds to support substance-use monitoring and community supervision for individuals whose criminal justice involvement is associated with substance-use disorders, including opioid-use disorder. The Court requests **$170,000 for the first year**, followed by **$135,000 annually in subsequent years**, subject to annual review of program needs and available settlement funds. The requested funding would support three essential program needs:

1. Drug testing for Treatment Court participants whose testing is not covered by Medicaid.
2. Drug testing for appropriate probationers and pretrial defendants.
3. Purchase, maintenance, and operation of a reliable vehicle for the Treatment Court home-check officer to conduct home and workplace visits with program participants.

These expenditures would support accountability, treatment compliance, recovery, and public safety while reducing the financial burden placed on Houghton County's general operating budget.

Drug-Testing Costs

Drug testing is an essential component of effective substance-use supervision. Regular testing helps the Court and treatment team monitor compliance, identify potential relapse, respond promptly to emerging problems, and make informed decisions about treatment and supervision.

Treatment Court participants

Houghton County Treatment Court currently serves approximately 30 participants. Approximately 20% of these participants have their ordered drug testing covered by Medicaid. The Court therefore anticipates needing funding for testing for approximately 24 participants. Under the current testing schedule, participants are tested at a minimum frequency of twice per week. At the current cost of $34 per test, the annual expense is calculated as follows:

- 30 total participants.
- Approximately 6 participants with testing covered by Medicaid.
- Approximately 24 participants requiring funding.
- 2 tests per week × 52 weeks annually.
- $34 per test.

Annual Treatment Court testing cost: $84,864.

Probationers and pretrial defendants

The Court also supervises approximately 10–15 probationers and pretrial defendants who require substance-use-related testing. These individuals are tested on a similar schedule, at a current cost of $21.50 per test.

The resulting annual expense is:

- 10 individuals: $22,360.
- 15 individuals: $33,540.

The Court therefore anticipates annual probation and pretrial testing expenses of approximately $22,360–$33,540.

Annual drug-testing allocation

Based on the foregoing calculations, anticipated annual testing costs range from $107,224 to $118,404.

The Court requests **$120,000 annually for drug testing** to accommodate reasonable fluctuations in caseload and testing needs, as well as testing which may be ordered by the Circuit Court. This allocation would allow the Court to maintain appropriate monitoring without routinely diverting County operating funds from other essential services.

Treatment Court Supervision Vehicle

The Court also requests a one-time allocation of **$35,000 for the purchase of a reliable vehicle** dedicated to the Treatment Court home-check officer's community-supervision duties. Effective Treatment Court supervision requires more than scheduled court appearances and office visits. Home and workplace checks allow the officer to verify participants' living and employment circumstances, monitor compliance with program expectations, identify developing concerns, and communicate relevant information to the Court and treatment team. These visits are particularly important for participants who live or work in rural areas, where distances between participants and service locations can be substantial.

A dependable vehicle would allow the officer to conduct these visits consistently and safely throughout Houghton County, including during winter conditions. It would also reduce the risk that vehicle unavailability or excessive repair costs would interfere with required supervision. The requested vehicle is intended specifically to support Treatment Court supervision and related recovery-accountability activities, rather than general courthouse transportation or unrelated County business.

Vehicle Fuel, Maintenance, and Repairs

The Court requests **$15,000 annually** for the operating expenses necessary to keep the supervision vehicle reliable and available for program use. The proposed annual allocation is:

Expense	Annual amount
Fuel	$10,000
Routine maintenance, tires, and repairs	$5,000
Total annual vehicle operating expenses	**$15,000**

The fuel allocation reflects the anticipated need for regular travel to participants' homes and workplaces throughout Houghton County. The maintenance allocation provides for routine service, tires, brakes, and reasonable repair costs associated with sustained use on rural roads and in Upper Peninsula weather conditions.

These are planning estimates and may be adjusted as actual mileage and expenditures become known. The Court would use the vehicle for the designated program purpose and maintain appropriate expenditure records.

Summary of Funding Request

Requested expenditure	First year	Subsequent years
Treatment Court, probation, and pretrial drug testing	$120,000	$120,000
Treatment Court supervision vehicle	$35,000	—
Vehicle fuel	$10,000	$10,000
Vehicle maintenance and repairs	$5,000	$5,000
Total requested	**$170,000**	**$135,000**

The first-year request includes the one-time vehicle purchase. The subsequent annual request excludes that purchase and provides for continuing drug testing, fuel, and maintenance.

Relationship to Opioid Remediation

Michigan's opioid settlement framework directs the majority of settlement funds toward opioid remediation, including treatment, recovery support, and other activities designed to address opioid misuse and opioid-related disorders. The applicable settlement agreements and Michigan

guidance should be consulted to determine whether each proposed expense qualifies for the particular settlement funds being used.

The Court's proposed expenditures are intended to support a coordinated local response to substance-use disorders through treatment accountability, appropriate monitoring, and community supervision. Drug testing provides information that can help the Court and treatment team identify relapse and respond with appropriate treatment or supervision interventions. Home and workplace checks support ongoing engagement, verification of compliance, and the identification of barriers that may interfere with recovery.

Accountability and Fiscal Responsibility

The Court's proposal incorporates several measures intended to ensure responsible use of public funds:

- Medicaid-covered Treatment Court testing is excluded from the requested testing budget.
- Testing costs are based on current per-test prices and stated caseload estimates.
- Vehicle funding is limited to a designated Treatment Court supervision purpose.
- Fuel and maintenance are separately itemized.
- Actual expenditures can be tracked and reviewed against the approved allocation.
- Future funding needs can be reassessed based on caseload, testing frequency, and actual vehicle operating costs.

This approach allows the County to direct resources toward identifiable local needs while maintaining transparency and accountability in the use of settlement funds.

Conclusion

The 97th District Court respectfully requests approval of **$170,000 in opioid settlement funding for the first year and $135,000 annually thereafter**, subject to the County's determination that the proposed expenditures are eligible under the applicable settlement agreements. This investment would help sustain essential drug testing for Treatment Court participants, probationers, and pretrial defendants while providing the reliable transportation necessary for meaningful community-based supervision.

The requested funding would support the Court's ongoing efforts to promote treatment compliance, encourage recovery, respond to relapse, reduce recidivism, and protect the safety and well-being of Houghton County residents. The Court appreciates the County's consideration of this request and its continued commitment to addressing the consequences of substance-use disorders in our community.

Respectfully,

Nicholas J. Daavettila
97th District Court

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October 19, 2026
Rec'd 10.30.26

Chelsea Rheault, Administrator
Board of Commissioners
Houghton County
401 E. Houghton Avenue
Houghton, MI 49931

Re: Supplemental Opioid Funding Request for Incentives/Exercise Programming

Dear Ms. Rheault and Board of Commissioners::

I am writing to supplement my prior request for opioid settlement funding to support the ongoing operations and recovery services of the 97th District Court Treatment Court. In reviewing the items included in my original request, I realized that I inadvertently omitted two components of our existing programming that would benefit from continued financial support.

First, I respectfully request **$2,500 annually** to maintain our partnership with Snap Fitness, which provides Treatment Court participants with mentored physical training as an alternative to attending one of their regularly scheduled sobriety meetings. This partnership gives participants an opportunity to develop healthy routines, improve their physical and emotional well-being, and engage in constructive activities that complement their recovery efforts. The structured nature of the program also reinforces personal responsibility, accountability, and the development of healthy habits that can support long-term recovery.

Second, I request **$7,500 annually for participant incentives associated with phase advancement and successful graduation from Treatment Court**. These incentives recognize participants' progress, sustained engagement, and achievement of meaningful milestones in their recovery. Incentives are an important component of problem-solving court programming because they provide positive reinforcement for demonstrated progress and encourage continued participation in the program. Funding would allow the Court to maintain a meaningful and consistent incentive program as participants work toward successful completion.

The total amount of these supplemental requests is **$10,000 annually**. I would appreciate the County's consideration of these items alongside the funding priorities outlined in my original proposal.

Thank you for your continued consideration of the 97th District Court Treatment Court and the County's efforts to address the effects of substance use disorder in our community. I believe these investments would help sustain effective recovery-oriented programming and reinforce the positive progress of individuals working toward lasting recovery.

Respectfully,

Nicholas J. Daavettila
97th District Court

HOUGHTON COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Houghton County Board of Commissioners
FROM: County Administrator
DATE: October 29, 2026
RE: Upcoming Board and Committee Appointment Expirations

As we approach the end of the 2026 calendar year, I would like to ensure that any expiring appointments to County boards, commissions, and committees are appropriately addressed.

If you are aware of any board or committee appointments with terms expiring on or before December 31, 2026, please notify my office so that the necessary reappointments or new appointments can be included on the December Board of Commissioners meeting agenda for consideration and approval.

Additionally, if you are aware of any existing vacancies that have not yet been addressed, please bring those to my attention so they can be reviewed.

The goal is to ensure continuity of representation and avoid any unintended vacancies as we enter the 2027 calendar year.

Thank you for your assistance!

Chelsea Rheault

Outlook

Committee / Board Appointments

From Chelsea Rheault <chelsea@houghtoncounty.gov>
Date Tue 10/20/2026 7:29 PM
To Jennifer Kelly <countyclerk@houghtoncounty.gov>; Board of Commissioners <boc@houghtoncounty.net>
Cc Agenda <agenda@houghtoncounty.gov>

Hello,

I am reaching out to see if there are committee or board appointments that need to be added to the BOC agenda in the coming months? I know in the past there has been numerous appointments needed in December, and the only ones I have down are for the Planning Commission currently.

CHELSEA RHEAULT, MBA
Houghton County
Administrator

(906) 482-8307

chelsea@houghtoncounty.gov

www.houghtoncounty.net

401 E Houghton Ave
Houghton, MI 49931

Book time to meet with me

Nov. WS

HOUGHTON COUNTY

PUBLIC NOTICE

PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCIES

Houghton County is currently seeking interested individuals to fill **two vacancies** on the Houghton County Planning Commission, representing the following interest groups:

- **Education**
- **Economic Development & Tourism**

The Planning Commission plays an important role in guiding the future of Houghton County through land use planning, community development, and long-term planning initiatives.

INTERESTED IN SERVING?

Please visit the official Houghton County website to view the full Planning Commission Vacancies notice (PDF) and obtain a Commission Application.

Website: www.houghtoncounty.gov

Completed applications should be submitted to the Houghton County Administrator.

Email: administrator@houghtoncounty.gov

Mail or Deliver To:
Houghton County Administration Office
401 E. Houghton Avenue
Houghton, MI 49931

For additional information, please contact the Houghton County Administration Office.

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF HOUGHTON COUNTY!