



# Opioid Settlement Funds FY2024 Review & Looking Ahead

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County Manager's Office

Board of Commissioner's Briefing

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024



# Opioid Settlement Overview



Attorney General

**Josh Stein**

Summer, 2021

"These companies made billions of dollars while millions of Americans got hooked on opioids. In North Carolina, we've already lost at least 20,000 people to this crisis, and countless families more have been devastated by loss and addiction. That's why I led a bi-partisan coalition of attorneys general from across the country to hold them accountable. We achieved the second largest state attorney general settlement in history – \$26 billion."

- Buncombe County is scheduled to receive \$29,249,904 between 2022-2038
  - Roughly \$2 million per year till 2027
- Purpose: to support programs or services that serve persons with Opioid Use Disorder or any co-occurring Substance Use Disorder or mental health conditions



# Strategic Planning Overview

## Visioning Process

Community Outreach

Key Indicators

Root Cause Analysis

Strategies & Recommendation Development

Implementation Structure Development

Monitoring & Evaluation Planning



Julian F. Keith Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Center  
Vocational Rehabilitation



# Key Findings

## Strengths

- Community Paramedic PORT Team
- Jail MAT Program
- High number of treatment providers
- County diversion and community re-entry programs
- Syringe Service Program supporting
  - Harm reduction
  - MOUD access
  - Naloxone distribution

## Gaps

- Affordable housing
- Mental health care
- Limited public transportation
- Lack of cultural diversity among providers
- Exclusions for care: Sobriety requirements; Criminal history; MOUD Utilization
- Inefficient coordination across systems

## Opportunities for Change

- Public engagement and education
- Support young people: Prevention education; Mental health and substance use treatment; Prosocial connection
- Increase shelter and housing access
- Increase inpatient treatment and MOUD access
- Expand education & career development programs
- Promote community and connection

## Challenges

- COVID-19: Increase in social isolation and mental health stressors
- Service provider burnout, turnover, staffing challenges
- High cost of living and growing unhoused population
- Rural locality, geographically isolated communities
- Stigma and marginalization of people who use substances



# Strategic Planning Recommendations

Prioritize **life-saving and harm-reducing measures** today

## Collaborative Strategic Planning

- Collaborative goal setting, objective identification, & prioritization
- Streamlined information sharing
- Dedicated & consistent messaging

## MAT Expansion

- Expand access to MAT in high impact areas
- Streamline data across County MAT programs

## Acute Response Resources

- Fund **Recovery Support Services** to address Social Determinants of Health
- Fund **Naloxone Distribution & Community Education**

Invest in **prevention** and longer-term planning to **address root causes** of substance use

## Early Intervention

- Invest in youth voice and leadership
- Education & awareness-raising
- Community-based resources (e.g. youth peer support programs)

## Employment-Related Services

- Holistic care models support job readiness in treatment/shelter settings
- Employer collaboration to promote hiring & recovery-friendly workplaces

## Recovery Housing

- Support housing providers in meeting best-practice quality benchmarks
- Create opportunities to expand evidence-based housing options



# Funded in Fiscal Year 2024

## Collaborative Strategic Planning

- Behavioral Health Manager Position
- Behavioral Health & Justice Analyst Position
- Medical Substance Use Professional/Epidemiologist Contract
- 911 Dispatch Diversion Feasibility Study

## Recovery Support Services

- Public Health Harm Reduction Program Manager Position
- Justice Services Community Re-entry Team Contract
- Funds to Address Social Determinants of Health
- Community Paramedicine Positions
- Community Paramedicine Peer Supports & Clinician Contract

## Naloxone Distribution

- Naloxone & Harm Reduction Supplies
- Inclusive Connection & Healing Coordinator Position
- Media & Engagement Materials





# FY 2024 Impact: Collaborative Strategic Planning

- Fatal Overdose Emergency Response
  - Enhanced data analysis & interpretation to inform decision-making
  - Strategic planning to reduce barriers to accessing treatment
  - Identifying gaps and strategies to connect people to care
- Centering equity and addressing rising overdose rates in historically marginalized communities
  - Inclusive Connection & Healing Coordinator position in the Office of Equity & Human Rights
  - Language and cultural visibility centered in public messaging & outreach events
  - Collaboration with trusted community partners to build programs in historically marginalized communities
- Enhancing connections to care
  - Collaboration with sheriff's office, community paramedics and mental health professionals responding to substance use/ behavioral health-related incidents in the community



# Hope & Healing Campaign

- Video advertising:
  - Hulu – 29,000 impressions across 27 genres targeting viewers in Buncombe County that align with impacted demographics
  - Grail Moviehouse – 30-second video ahead of every showing
- Audio advertising to targeted demographics:
  - I Heart Radio – 185,000+ impressions
  - Online streaming – 57,000+ impressions
- Events:
  - Let's Talk Opioids with Dr. Shukla Facebook live reaching 2,200+ in English and 150+ in Spanish
  - Opioids in the Black Community event: 100+ attendees
  - Upcoming partnership and community trainings at GrindFest three-day festival



**Millions of Americans are living with opioid use disorder, but overdose deaths are preventable.**

**Hope & Healing**  
Closer Than You Think

Drugs and opioids impact us all.





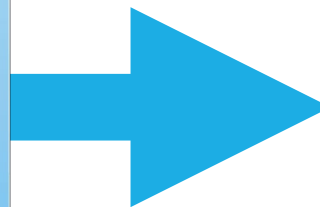
# FY 2024 Impact: Recovery Support Services

- Community Paramedics have increased capacity to respond to overdoses and conduct outreach.
  - Paramedics at the detention center providing information, resources, and to offer medications for opioid use disorder if needed.



**99**  
Individual  
Mental Health  
Sessions

**1,460**  
*Peer Support  
Sessions*



### **Connected to/Obtained:**

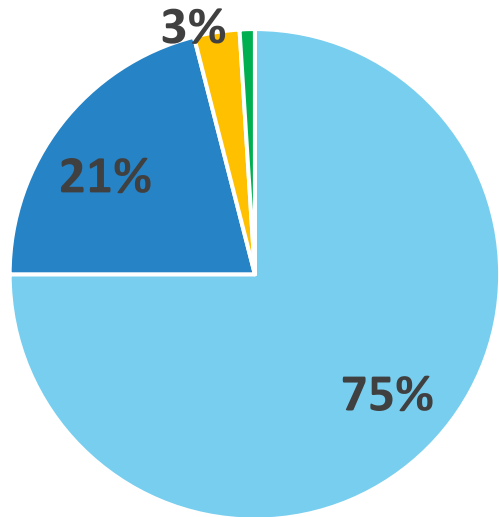
Food  
Housing  
Justice Resource Services  
Detox/Rehab  
Employment  
Insurance



# FY 2024 Impact: Recovery Support Services

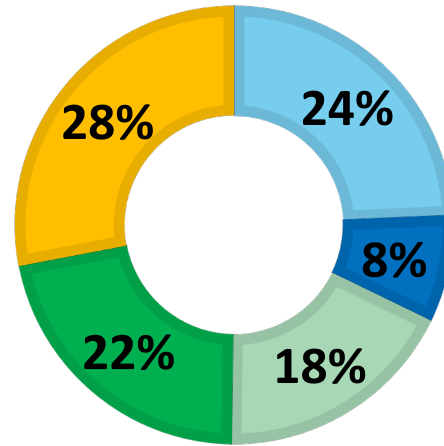
Community Re-entry Services = 225 individuals served FY24 Q1-Q3

Participants by Race



- Caucasian
- Black/African American
- MultiRacial
- Unknown

% Distribution By SDoH Category



- Economic stability
- Education access and/or quality
- Healthcare access and/or quality
- Neighborhood & built environment
- Social & community context

**84% of Participants did not Experience Rearrest**

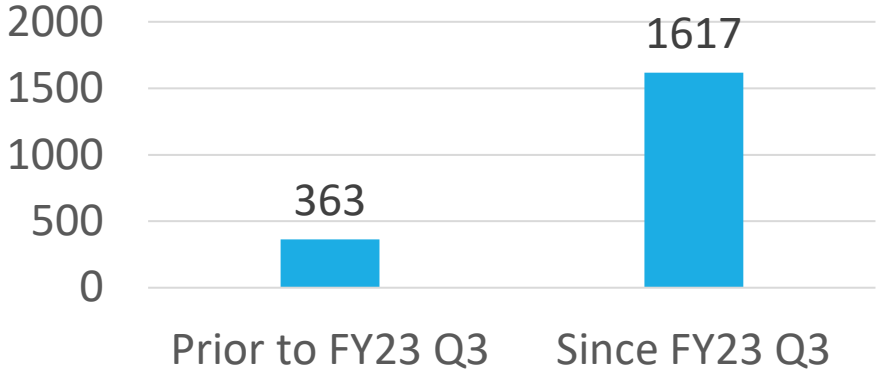
55%	Caucasian
42%	Black/African American
3%	Hispanic



# FY 2024 Impact: Naloxone Distribution

- Increase in Naloxone distribution allowing further community saturation and distribution to community partners involved in this work, with a focus on BIPOC community partners.
- Increase in trainings and outreach efforts on overdose awareness, Naloxone use and Harm Reduction.

Quarterly Average of Naloxone Distribution



# Looking Ahead

FY 2025 Allocations  
Budget Forecast  
Strategic Approach  
Remaining Priorities



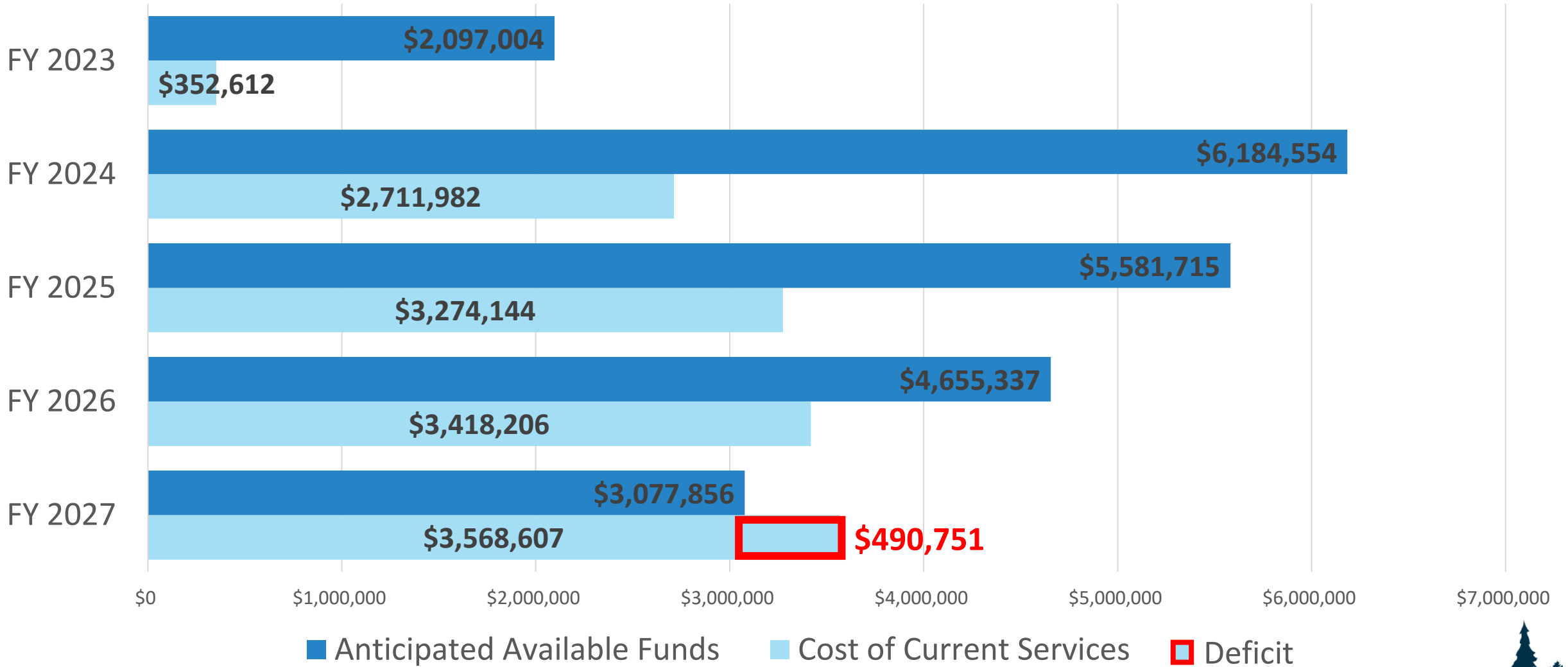
# FY2025 Allocations

Cost Center	Positions/Programs	Amount
Strategy and Innovation	Behavioral Health and Justice Analyst Position	\$140,374
Behavioral Health	Behavioral Health Manager Position	\$154,282
	Social Determinants of Health Funds	\$224,900
	Education Materials/Advertising	\$30,000
	Medical Substance Use Professional Contract	\$80,000
Emergency Services	Community Paramedicine PORT	
	2 Paramedic Teams (6 positions)	\$1,104,293
	Supervisor & Peer Support Coordinator Positions	\$228,067
	Licensed Clinicians & Peer Supports Contract*	\$497,123
Public Health	Harm Reduction Program Manager Position	\$122,956
	Naloxone Distribution & Medical Supplies*	\$206,300
Justice Services	Community Re-entry Team Contract	\$383,000
Office of Equity & Human Rights	Inclusive Connection and Healing Coordinator Position	\$118,461
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,274,144</b>





# Opioid Settlement Funds: Allocations for Currently-Funded Services



# Strategic Priorities

- Emphasis on **collaboration** and communication between County Programs **to promote sustainability of programming**
  - Substance Use Response Group: launching July 2024
    - Coordinated budget planning & evaluation
    - Enhanced data collection and analysis
    - Collaborative strategy identification and program development
- Maintain **focus on life-saving efforts** for those most at risk today
  - Expanding telehealth MOUD access for uninsured community paramedic PORT participants
  - Emphasis on equity and culturally competent treatment options



# Remaining Priorities to Address Root Causes

## Early Intervention

- Invest in youth voice and leadership
- Education & awareness-raising
- Community-based resources (e.g. youth peer support programs)

## Employment-Related Services

- Holistic care models support job readiness in treatment/shelter settings
- Employer collaboration to promote hiring & recovery-friendly workplaces

## Recovery Housing

- Support housing providers in meeting best-practice quality benchmarks
- Create opportunities to expand evidence-based housing options



# Questions?

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Visit the Opioid Settlement Public Input Page at

<https://engage.buncombecounty.org/u8734> to learn more

