

# City of Fayetteville Impact Report Narratives for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Each local government that receives opioid settlement funds is asked to share an Annual Settlement Update describing how they have made use of settlement funds during each fiscal year. For each strategy funded, local governments also share additional narratives to describe their progress and successes (success information is optional for some local governments). Across all funded strategies, each local government selects one progress narrative and one success narrative to spotlight each fiscal year.

City of Fayetteville provided the following narrative information for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (July 2023 through June 2024):

## Annual Settlement Update

In 2023-2024, the City of Fayetteville initiated a contract with North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition (NCHRC) to support the Fayetteville Police Department's Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) programs. Additionally, NCHRC also offers, through the LEAD recovery support services, housing, employment-related assistance, and reentry services. These supportive services, available to LEAD participants, cover essential recovery supports such as food, transportation, cell phones, work-related expenses, clothing, motel stays, and recovery housing. NCHRC began work on this project in January 2024, developing an action plan, creating an evaluation tool to track progress, and collaborating with project partners to establish goals. NCHRC has supported 17 new individuals through the LEAD program, made 35 referrals for wrap-around support, and facilitated 60 linkages to care for those not eligible for LEAD but in need of services.

## Strategy Spotlights

### ❖ Exhibit A, Strategy 10: Criminal Justice Diversion Programs

#### Progress Narrative

Significant progress has been made in terms of streamlining the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) procedures and ensuring all referrals are processed. NC Harm Reduction Coalition (NCHRC) developed a unique referral portal on their website, which allows for LEAD referrals to be received and tracked from partners. Training on this new referral procedure has been incorporated into all harm reduction training offered for Crisis Intervention Teams, new Fayetteville Police cadets, and citizens participating in the Fayetteville Police Department (FPD) citizens police academy. This new referral protocol and updated training aims to increase the number of charge diversions for the LEAD program.

The LEAD initiative is a multi-disciplinary team consisting of key community stakeholders from law enforcement, harm reduction, the district attorney, managed care, community paramedicine, treatment providers, and several non-profits. This coalition continues to grow as new partners continue to join. The relationships between the coalition partners have never been stronger.

### ❖ Exhibit A, Strategy 10: Criminal Justice Diversion Programs

### **Success Narrative**

The LEAD initiative has helped support the success of several participants. For example, one participant who was referred to LEAD due to minor criminal violations and panhandling, who was also unhoused and in chaotic drug use, has now gone from pan handling to working and having their own apartment. In this instance, LEAD was able to address the barriers preventing this person from accessing care by providing transportation to treatment, as well as covering the costs associated with supportive recovery housing. There have been several instances where access to supportive housing and transportation has been critical in supporting the success of participants.

## **Progress and Success Narratives for All Funded Strategies**

### **❖ Exhibit A, Strategy 10: Criminal Justice Diversion Programs**

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