

**TRACKING NUMBER:**  
6a-2024D617-R13

**A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF Columbus  
TO DIRECT THE EXPENDITURE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

**WHEREAS** Columbus County has joined national settlement agreements with companies engaged in the manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of opioids.

**WHEREAS** the allocation, use, and reporting of funds stemming from these national settlement agreements and certain bankruptcy resolutions (“Opioid Settlement Funds”) are governed by the Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation (“MOA”) and the Supplemental Agreement for Additional Funds from Additional Settlements of Opioid Litigation (“SAAF”);

**WHEREAS** Columbus County has received Opioid Settlement Funds pursuant to these national settlement agreements and deposited the Opioid Settlement Funds in a separate special revenue fund as required by section D of the MOA;

**WHEREAS** section E.6 of the MOA states that, before spending opioid settlement funds, the local government’s governing body must adopt a resolution that:

- (i) indicates that it is an authorization for expenditure of opioid settlement funds; and,
- (ii) states the specific strategy or strategies the county or municipality intends to fund pursuant to Option A or Option B, using the item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to identify each funded strategy; and,
- (iii) states the amount dedicated to each strategy for a specific period of time.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, in alignment with the NC MOA and SAAF, Columbus County authorizes the expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds as follows:

**1. First strategy authorized**

- a. LEADERSHIP, PLANNING AND COORDINATION
- b. Exhibit B: J-4
- c. \$60,000
- d. July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025
- e. One full time employee to provide oversight, tracking, and reporting of Opioid Settlement Funds. Professional development costs are included.
- f. Provider: Columbus County

**2. Second strategy authorized**

- a. PREVENT OVERDOSE DEATHS AND OTHER HARMS (HARM REDUCTION)
- b. Exhibit B: H-5
- c. \$13,000
- d. July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025
- e. FirstWatch yearly fee.
- f. Provider: FirstWatch

**3. Third strategy authorized**

- a. PREVENT OVERDOSE DEATHS AND OTHER HARMS (HARM REDUCTION)
- b. Exhibit B: H-3
- c. \$3,000
- d. July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025
- e. Naloxone training for first responders.
- f. Provider: Overdose Lifeline

**4. Fourth strategy authorized**

- a. PREVENT OVERDOSE DEATHS AND OTHER HARMS (HARM REDUCTION)
- b. Exhibit B: H-1
- c. \$18,000
- d. July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025
- e. Provide Naloxone to first responders.
- f. Provider: To be determined

**5. Fifth strategy authorized**

- a. TREAT OPIOID USE DISORDER

- b. Exhibit B: A-2
- c. \$289,080
- d. July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025
- e. Contract between The Healing Place of New Hanover County and Columbus County to provide 10-12 beds daily/annually for Columbus County adults with Opioid Use Disorder. The contract includes access to Vivitrol injections for individuals to manage cravings.
- f. Provider: The Healing Place of New Hanover County

**6. Sixth strategy authorized**

- a. CONNECT PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP TO THE HELY THEY NEED
- b. Exhibit B: C-16
- c. \$90,000
- d. July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025
- e. Licensed mental health provider to provide 24/7 crisis/resource/referral line access to individuals from Columbus County that suffer with Opioid/Substance Use Disorder. The contractor will serve as the County Liaison for Columbus County referrals to The Healing Place of New Hanover County and other substance use services. The contractor will organize and update as needed, a County resource guide that contains information regarding available services for Opioid Use Disorder, Substance Use Disorder, and Mental Health conditions. The resource will also list other supports that can be utilized by County residents needed to support and gain recovery. The contractor will provide in-service training to community groups on topics of stigma, Naltrexone (Narcan), SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment) and other topics as assigned and needed in the community to intervene with the County's individuals and families affected by Opioid use. Funds allocated include cost of independent contractor, materials needed to provide public education on relevant subjects, and travel expenses.
- f. Provider: Nicole Hopkins, MA, LCMHC

**7. Seventh strategy authorized**

- a. PREVENT MISUSE OF OPIOIDS
- b. Exhibit B: G-9
- c. \$20,000
- d. July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025
- e. 6-10<sup>th</sup> grade Evidence Based Practice Prevention program in the Whiteville and Columbus County School Systems. The curriculum includes addressing making choices about alcohol/drug/opioid/tobacco use as well as mental health issues and bullying. Cost includes purchasing workbook materials and training for teachers.
- f. Provider: Botvin LifeSkills Training

**8. Eighth strategy authorized**

- a. ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF CRIMINAL-JUSTICE-INVOLVED PERSONS
- b. B: D-7
- c. \$10,000
- d. July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025
- e. Provide funding for up to 3 court personnel to attend Drug Court training which will initiate the planning for a Columbus County Drug Court Program. Allocated funds will support registration, travel, lodging, and per diem expenses.
- f. Provider: National Association of Drug Court Personnel

**9. Ninth strategy authorized**

- a. ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF PREGNANT OR PARENTING WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES, INCLUDING BABIES WITH NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME
- b. Exhibit B: E-5
- c. \$85,000
- d. July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025
- e. Dr. Chasnoff will lead a two-day training for Columbus County OB/GYN, Pediatric, Health Department, and DSS/CPS professionals. The training will focus on evidence based practices for treating pregnant or parenting women with children diagnosed with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. Dr. Chasnoff will also be available to the medical providers for consultation regarding specific cases of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome.
- f. Provider: NTI Upstream - Dr. Ira Chasnoff and NTI Upstream staff

**10. Tenth strategy authorized**

- a. PREVENT MISUSE OF OPIOIDS
- b. Exhibit B: G-2
- c. \$20,000
- d. July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

- e. Development of a webpage for Columbus County to educate the public and County citizens about the abuse of Opioids and other drugs. The online resource will provide information to Columbus County residents regarding the County's programs related to Substance Use Disorder and outcome data.
- f. Provider: To be determined

**11. Eleventh strategy authorized**

- a. COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIC PLANNING
- b. Exhibit A:1
- c. \$100,000
- d. July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025
- e. Contract to be negotiated to provide technical support and grant writing to leverage the Opioid Settlement Funds. Opioid Settlement Funds will be used to apply for federal and state funds to expand services for individuals with Opioid Use Disorders, Substance Use Disorders, and Mental Health Disorders in Columbus County.
- f. Provider: To be determined

**12. Twelfth strategy authorized**

- a. PREVENT OVER-PRESCRIBING AND ENSURE APPROPRIATE PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING OF OPIOIDS
- b. Exhibit B: F-4
- c. \$15,000
- d. July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025
- e. Four training sessions to be provided on overprescribing of Opioids and alternatives to using pain medications to Columbus Regional Healthcare System physicians.
- f. Provider: Dr. Paul Buongiorno

**13. Thirteenth strategy authorized**

- a. SUPPORT PEOPLE IN TREATMENT AND RECOVERY
- b. Exhibit B: B-7
- c. \$5,000
- d. July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025
- e. Contract with a transportation service provider to transport Columbus County individuals meeting criteria to Dix Facility Based Crisis Center in Jacksonville, North Carolina, Walter B. Jones Hospital in Greenville, North Carolina, or other Substance Use Disorder support services if The Healing Place of New Hanover County is not available or an appropriate placement.
- f. Provider: Healing Heart

**14. Fourteenth strategy authorized**

- a. SUPPORT PEOPLE IN TREATMENT AND RECOVERY
- b. Exhibit B: B-7
- c. \$5,000
- d. July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025
- e. Contract with a Transportation service provider to transport Columbus County individuals meeting criteria to and from Opioid/Substance Use Disorder outpatient services such as Intensive Outpatient programs, recovery meetings, TASC, and other relevant and approved services.
- f. Provider: Healing Heart

**15. Fifteenth strategy authorized**

- a. SUPPORT PEOPLE IN TREATMENT AND RECOVERY
- b. Exhibit B: B-4
- c. \$2,500
- d. July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025
- e. Support for those in recovery housing that may need assistance with move-in deposits, utilities, and/or furniture.
- f. Provider: Columbus County

**16. Sixteenth strategy authorized**

- a. SUPPORT PEOPLE IN TREATMENT AND RECOVERY
- b. Exhibit B: B-15
- c. \$1,500
- d. July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

- e. Provide training opportunities for Independent Contractor -- County Liaison (see strategy six) to gain necessary skills and increase knowledge of Opioid Use Disorder, Substance Use Disorder, and/or Mental Health conditions and clinical care processes.
- f. Provider: To be determined

**17. Seventeenth strategy authorized**

- a. PREVENT MISUSE OF OPIOIDS
- b. Exhibit B: G-1
- c. \$35,000
- d. July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025
- e. Contract with marketing/media professionals to develop an organized media campaign about Opioid misuse. Funds allocated will purchase billboards, yard signs, and public service announcements to educate the public about Opioid misuse and community services available.
- f. Provider: Pen and Palette

The total dollar amount of Opioid Settlement Funds appropriated across the above named and authorized strategies is \$772,080.

Adopted this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.



Ricky Bullard, Chairman

Columbus County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Jana Nealey, Clerk to the Board

COUNTY SEAL



**TRACKING NUMBER:**  
22a-20240617-013

COLUMBUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA  
Ordinance making appropriations to the County of Columbus Opioid  
Settlement Project Fund (Fund 40)  
for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina as follows:

**Section 1:** The following amounts are hereby made to the Opioid Settlement Project Fund as of July 1, 2024, pursuant to G.S. 159 -13.2 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024.

Source of Revenue			
	2023-2024 Revenues	Revenue Adjustments	2024-2025 Updated Revenues
40-3572-333100 - Opioid Settlement Funds	\$863,518	(\$91,438)	\$772,080

Project Appropriations			
	2023-2024 Appropriations	Appropriation Adjustments	2024-2025 Updated Appropriations
40-5703-519001 - Contracted Services	\$695,473	(\$138,393)	\$557,080
40-5703-526003 - Other Supplies	\$92,145	(\$51,645)	\$40,500
40-5703-539515 - Professional Development	\$40,990	+\$93,857	\$134,847
40-5703-512100 - Salaries and Wages	\$22,000	+\$6,166	\$28,166
40-5703-518100 - FICA	\$5,000	(\$2,842)	\$2,158
40-5703-518200 - Retirement	\$3,400	+\$453	\$3,853
40-5703-518300 - Insurance	\$4,510	+\$966	\$5,476
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$863,518</b>	<b>(\$91,438)</b>	<b>\$772,080</b>

Description: Columbus County has received Opioid Settlement Funds pursuant to these national settlement agreements and deposited the funds in a separate special revenue fund. Columbus County has joined national settlement agreements with companies engaged in the manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of opioids, including settlements with drug distributors Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen, and the drug maker Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals.

This project ordinance is based on the strategies approved in the Resolution adopted on June 17, 2024 by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners.

**Section 2:** The project undertaken pursuant to this ordinance is in accordance with the Recommended Budget and any changes made during the County Commissioners' budget work sessions.

**Section 3:** The Finance Director is hereby directed to maintain within the Project Fund sufficient specific detailed accounting records to satisfy all applicable regulations. The terms of any financing agreement also shall be met.

**Section 4:** The County desires to expend its own funds for the purpose of paying certain costs of various projects, for which expenditures the County reasonably expects to reimburse itself from the proceeds of debt to be incurred by the County.

**Section 5:** All expenditures relating to obtaining any bond referendum and or installment purchase will be reimbursed from bond proceeds and installment purchase proceeds in accordance with the requirements of the United States Treasury Regulations Section 1.150 -2.

**Section 6:** This declaration of official intent is made pursuant to Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations to expressly declare the official intent of the County to reimburse itself from the proceeds of debt to be hereinafter incurred by the County for certain expenditures paid by the County on or after the date which is sixty (60) days prior to the date hereof.

**Section 7:** The County intends to seek Federal, State, and/or other grant funding to reduce the amount of loan proceeds. The adoption of this ordinance authorizes the County Manager and/or his representative to apply for and accept such funding if awarded.

**Section 8:** This project ordinance shall be entered in the minutes of the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County. Within five days hereof, copies of this ordinance shall be filed with the finance office in Columbus County, and with the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County. Copies of the Project Ordinance shall be made available to the Budget Officer, the Project Manager, and the Finance Officer for direction in carrying out this project.

This Project shall become effective on July 1, 2024.  
ADOPTED, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.

  
Ricky Bullard, Chairman  
Columbus County Board of Commissioners

  
Jana Nealey, Clerk to the Board