

Gaston County Opioid Settlement Strategic Plan

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Overview

- Opioid Settlement Overview
- Data Overview
- Program Overviews
- Collaborative Strategic Plan
- Community Input
- Recommendations
- Next Steps

Gaston County Opioid Settlement Funds

- \$1.5 billion awarded to North Carolina from agreements between distributors, manufacturers and pharmacies
- Gaston County will receive \$41 million over 18 years
- \$12.88m received to date
 - Allocated \$8.3m to 9 programs
- Gaston County currently funding Option A strategies
 - Prevention, harm reduction, treatment, recovery

Background Data

Opioid Overdose Rates in Gaston County, NC		
Year	Opioid Overdoses	Percentage Change
2021	583	
2022	966	+66%
2023	1,235	+28%
2024	742	-40%
2025 (<i>projected</i>)	641	-14%

2024: 410 Opioid Overdoses (Jan. 1 – July 21, 2024)

2025: 355 Opioid Overdoses (Jan. 1 – July 21, 2025)

Community Paramedicine Program – Medication Assisted Treatment Bridge Program (MAT)

- Post-Overdose follow-up care by paramedics
- Immediate access to MAT

Community Paramedic Program (7/1/24-6/30/25)	
Unique Patients	517
Referred to Addiction Treatment	151
Naloxone Kits Distributed	1,862

GEMS Recovery Transportation Program

- Provides safe, reliable transportation to:
 - Medication Assisted Treatment Appointments (MAT)
 - Primary Care
 - Court
 - Residential Treatment Programs

Recovery Transportation Ride Data (7/1/24 – 6/30/25)	
Unique Individuals Served	315
Number of Trips Completed	3,696
Miles Driven with Passenger	22,400

Kintegra Health: Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT)

- Expands MAT access for uninsured and underinsured patients in Gaston County
 - Primary care
 - OBGYN clinics
 - Health departments
 - Gaston Paramedicine
 - Jail settings

Kintegra Health: MAT (7/1/2024 – 6/30/25)	
Unique Participants with OUD Served	190
Unique Clients Connected to Treatment	79

McLeod Centers for Wellbeing: MAT Program

- Expands medication assisted treatment for uninsured and underinsured residents

McLeod Centers for Wellbeing: MAT (7/1/24 – 6/30/25)	
Unique Clients Connected to Treatment	95
Clients Connected and Adhered to Treatment for 6 Months	77

Olive Branch Ministry: Peer Support – Child Welfare

- Supports families impacted by substance use
- Bridges communication gaps and clarifies case plans

Olive Branch Ministry: Peer Support – Child Welfare (7/1/24 – 6/30/25)	
Unique Clients Connected to Treatment	214

Jail Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT)

- MAT for incarcerated persons with OUD
 - Buprenorphine
- Harm reduction efforts

Jail MAT (7/1/24 – 6/30/25)	
Unique Individuals Receiving Treatment	222
Unique Referrals to Treatment	288

Kintegra: Early Intervention Program

- Youth Mental Health First Aid Training
- Peer-Based Training Programs

Early Intervention Program (7/1/24 -6/30/25)	
Unique Participants Trained	36
Early Intervention Trainings Held	26

Collaborative Strategic Plan

- The strategic plan was created to address opioid misuse, addiction, overdose, or related issues.
- Once approved, expands to Option B - a longer list of strategies



Community Involvement

- Community Input Survey
- Youth Overdose Prevention Workgroup
- Focus Groups
 - Gaston County Child Welfare
 - Gaston County Adult and Aging Services
 - Olive Branch Ministry Participants
- Annual Public Meetings
- Law Enforcement Recommendations



Exhibit B Strategies: Recommendations

- **A:** Treat opioid use disorder
- **B:** Support people in treatment and recovery
- **D:** Address the needs of criminal-justice-involved persons
- **E:** Address the needs of pregnant or parenting women and their families, including babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome
- **G:** Prevent misuse of Opioids
- **H:** Prevent overdose deaths and other harms (harm reduction)
- **J:** Leadership, planning, and coordination
- **K:** Training

Next Steps: Request for Proposals

- Naloxone Distribution
 - 400k available, min. request: 20k
 - Eligible Programs: community organizations, EMS, ERs, jails, distributing naloxone
- Prevent the Misuse of Opioids
 - 400k available, min. request: 20k
 - Eligible activities: media campaigns, school-based programs, drug disposal, community coalitions

Funding period: January 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Annual Meeting

GASTON COUNTY'S ANNUAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT MEETING

Please join Gaston County Public Health for an annual update on the opioid settlement funds.



Tuesday
September 16, 2025



Time
11:00am - 1:00pm



Citizens Resource Center
1303 Dallas Cherryville Hwy.
Dallas, NC 28034

FREE LUNCH

Enjoy a meal while learning about the opioid settlement work underway in Gaston County.

ANNUAL UPDATE

An overview will be provided of what Gaston County has accomplished with the opioid settlement funds over the past year, along with a brief summary of plans for the year ahead.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Attendees will have the opportunity to share their perspectives and suggestions with Gaston County Public Health, which will help inform decision-making for the upcoming year.

SCAN TO REGISTER

Or visit: <https://forms.gle/oQtCu1CZZa1jXy5Gg9>

Questions: Stephanie.Jamoulis@gastongov.com

