

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: June 2, 2025

SUBJECT: Resolution – Opioid Settlement Fund Expenditure Authorization

PRESENTER: Jodi Grabowski, Strategic Behavioral Health Director

ATTACHMENT(S): Yes
1. Resolution

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

At the Board's June 19, 2024 meeting, the Board was presented with the Resolution requesting Authorization of spending for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year. The request for authorization covered thirteen "Strategies" to address the County's Strategic Plan accepted at the Board's August 16, 2023 meeting. This resolution represents a continuation of those Strategies. The Department of Strategic Behavioral Health will address the County's Strategic Plan while minimizing the need to request additional authorizations through the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year.

The Board must adopt a Resolution per the Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation which dictates the process for drawing from the Special Revenue Fund.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Pending the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Ordinance, the Board is requested to adopt the Resolution authorizing the expenditures and revenues associated with the Opioid Settlement Fund [Fund 51] and Strategic Behavioral Health for the funding of Strategies to be addressed in Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

I move the Board adopt the Resolution authorizing the expenditures and revenues associated with the Opioid Settlement Fund [Fund 51] and Strategic Behavioral Health for the funding of Strategies to be addressed in FY 25-26.

**HENDERSON COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA**

Before the Board of Commissioners

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ENACTMENT _____

WHEREAS Henderson County previously 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; and,

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

WHEREAS Henderson 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; and

WHEREAS section E.6 of the MOA states:

E.6. Process for drawing from special revenue funds.

- a. Budget item or resolution required. Opioid Settlement Funds can be used for a purpose when the Governing Body includes in its budget or passes a separate resolution authorizing the expenditure of a stated amount of Opioid Settlement Funds for that purpose or those purposes during a specified period of time.
- b. Budget item or resolution details. The budget or resolution should (i) indicate that it is an authorization for expenditure of opioid settlement funds; (ii) state 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) state the amount dedicated to each strategy for a stated period of time.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in alignment with the MOA, Henderson County authorizes the expenditure of opioid settlement funds as follows:

1. First strategy authorized
 - a. Name of strategy: Criminal Justice Diversion: Adult Recovery Court
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit B (Exhibit A, Exhibit B)
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: D,3
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: not to exceed \$251,492.
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Funds will cover costs related to the Adult Recovery Court and related program needs including but not limited to the following: Adult Recovery Court Coordinator (ARCC) position, prosecutorial services and support, supplies and materials to support the position and the program participants, training for the ARCC and members of the Interdisciplinary Team.
 - g. Provider: Henderson County.
2. Second strategy authorized
 - a. Name of strategy: Collaborative Strategic Planning
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A (Exhibit A, Exhibit B)
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: A,1
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: not to exceed \$167,245.
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: The Director of Strategic Behavioral Health position was created in 2023 to provide oversight of county programs, contracts, grants, and other funding. The Director will plan, organize, and manage Henderson County's network of behavioral health/substance use services, programs, and treatment providers. This position oversees the county's Opioid Settlement Fund planning and management of funded strategies and programs. Establishment of this department and support of the position requires expenses that include, but are not limited to, office equipment and materials, software, training and supervision, vehicle use and maintenance, and programmatic support for clients the department supports.
 - g. Provider: Henderson County
3. Third strategy authorized
 - a. Name of strategy: Recovery Support Services: Peer Support Specialist
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A (Exhibit A, Exhibit B)
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: A,3
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: not to exceed \$95,099.
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Funding supports a County employed Peer Support Specialist position. Funding will support the position and related expenses including, but not limited to, training and certifications, equipment and supplies necessary to perform the responsibilities of the job. This strategy addresses systemic root causes of the Opioid Epidemic by creating connections to treatment and supporting the recovery of persons and families with substance use issues.
 - g. Provider: Henderson County.

4. Fourth strategy authorized
 - a. Name of strategy: Post-overdose Response Team: Peer Support for Co-response
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A (Exhibit A, Exhibit B)
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: A, 8
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: not to exceed \$95,599.
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Funding supports the position of Peer Support Specialist position embedded at EMS who will respond to overdoses and other substance involved calls that occur during scheduled work hours and follow up with those that occur in their off hours. Funding will support the position and related expenses including, but not limited to, training and certifications, equipment and supplies necessary to perform the responsibilities of the job. This person will connect people to treatment services and support recovery. They can also work with people and families EMS encounter who struggle with substances that did not result in an overdose. The overarching goal is to prevent overdoses and connect individuals to services.
 - g. Provider: Henderson County.
5. Fifth strategy authorized
 - a. Name of strategy: Evidence Based Addiction Treatment
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A (Exhibit A, Exhibit B)
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: A, 2
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: not to exceed \$20,000
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: This strategy will address access to treatment and continuity of care by providing financial support for uninsured and underinsured individuals to receive evidence-based treatment services. Even as Medicaid Expansion goes into effect, a percentage of the population with Opioid Use Disorders will still not qualify for benefits. Individuals in the Recovery Court and Reentry programs will likely represent this population. This strategy will prove to be effective by increasing the number of uninsured or underinsured individuals receiving treatment services.
 - g. Provider: Treatment providers as recommended for appropriate level of care.
6. Sixth strategy authorized
 - a. Name of strategy: Recovery Housing Support Services
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A (Exhibit A, Exhibit B)
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: A, 4
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: not to exceed \$100,000
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Recovery Housing Support is a regional concern, as there are very few inpatient or residential programs, or transitional recovery homes. There are currently few recovery house options within Henderson County. The funding strategy to address this gap is to begin by stabilizing housing for persons in early recovery with priority given to participants in the Recovery Court and Reentry programs by providing capital to prevent evictions or to assist with fees and deposits.
 - g. Provider: Housing providers as available and as appropriate for level of care.

7. Seventh strategy authorized
 - a. Name of strategy: Early Intervention: Specialized Training & Community Education
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A (Exhibit A, Exhibit B)
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: A, 6
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: not to exceed \$5,000
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: This strategy specifically addresses the root causes of childhood trauma by offering training and resources to organizations that serve vulnerable populations, and community education for the public. This strategy will prove effective by increasing the number of screenings and referrals for care and support through partnering organizations. This strategy may also cover training of community members to administer Naloxone.
 - g. Provider: Henderson County or TBD.
8. Eighth strategy authorized
 - a. Name of strategy: Prevention: Media Campaign and Resource Locator
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit B (Exhibit A, Exhibit B)
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: G, 1
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: not to exceed \$5,000
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Funding will support public awareness campaigns to increase awareness and help prevent opioid misuse. Campaign messaging will come from state and county initiatives such as "One Pill Can Kill". To raise awareness of the risks of opioid misuse, to raise awareness of treatment resources, and to decrease the prevalence of overdoses.
 - g. Provider: Henderson County or TBD.
9. Ninth strategy authorized
 - a. Name of strategy: Prevention: STAR Program and Camp Glow
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit B (Exhibit A, Exhibit B)
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: G, 9
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: not to exceed \$10,000
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: The STAR Program is a prevention program facilitated by the Sheriff's department. This program replaced DARE in the Henderson County School System and has demonstrated success in engaging students. Opioid Settlement funding will expand the capacity of this training to be able to serve more students. Camp Glow offers a free overnight camping experience which strives to teach Henderson County Youth about the dangers of addiction and the devastating effects of substance misuse. \$6,500 for STAR and \$3,500 for Camp Glow.
 - g. Provider: Henderson County Sheriff's Department and Camp Glow
10. Tenth strategy authorized
 - a. Name of strategy: Prevention/ & Intervention: Family Navigation Resource
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit B (Exhibit A, Exhibit B)
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: G, 12
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: not to exceed \$45,000

- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Funding will support approximately half the salary and benefits of a position at the Children & Family Resource Center. The Family Mental Health Navigator position was created through a community collaboration to help families navigate the fragmented behavioral health system. This position seeks to offer prevention and intervention for families and youth.
 - g. Provider: Children and Family Resource Center.
11. Eleventh strategy authorized
- a. Name of strategy: Naloxone Distribution.
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A (Exhibit A, Exhibit B)
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: A, 7
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: not to exceed \$10,000.
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Funding will support programs or organizations that distribute naloxone to persons at risk of overdose or their social networks, such as post-overdose response teams, programs that provide naloxone to persons upon release from jail or prison, emergency medical service providers or hospital emergency departments that provide naloxone to persons at risk of overdose, or community-based organizations that provide services to people who use drugs. Programs or organizations involved in community distribution of naloxone may, in addition, provide naloxone to first responders.
 - g. Provider: Henderson County.
12. Twelfth strategy authorized
- a. Name of strategy: Prevention & Intervention: Hope Coalition Alternatives to Suspension Program
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit B (Exhibit A, Exhibit B)
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: G, 9
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: not to exceed \$60,000
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Funding will support a program to provide alternatives to suspension for youth in Henderson County. The program will utilize evidence-based programming to raise awareness of the risks of opioid misuse, to raise awareness of treatment resources, and to decrease the prevalence of overdoses. Funding will cover training of staff, compensation for the staff, space rental, and food and supplies as needed for the participants.
 - g. Provider: Hope Coalition.
13. Thirteenth strategy authorized
- a. Name of strategy: Reentry Programs
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A (Exhibit A, Exhibit B)
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: A, 12
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: not to exceed \$92,755.
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Funding will support a position embedded in the detention center for Reentry Services. Henderson County chose Criminal Justice Diversion as one of its main strategies. Funding will support the position and related expenses including, but not limited to, training and certifications, equipment and supplies necessary to perform the

responsibilities of the job. The Reentry Specialist will connect incarcerated persons to addiction treatment, recovery support, harm reduction services, primary healthcare, or other services or supports they need upon release from jail or prison, or that provide any of these services or supports.

g. Provider: Henderson County.

14. Fourteenth strategy authorized

a. Name of strategy: Recovery Support Services

b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A (Exhibit A, Exhibit B)

c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: A, 3

d. Amount authorized for this strategy: not to exceed \$90,000.

e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Funding will support the needs of persons needing recovery support services as allowable in this Strategy. These funds may be used to support DSS programming specific to supporting substance involved families toward addressing the rising number of drug-endangered children in Henderson County.

g. Provider: Henderson County or TBD.

The total dollar amount of Opioid Settlement Funds at this time appropriated is not to exceed \$1,047,190.

Adopted this the 2nd day of June 2025.

WILLIAM LAPSLEY, CHAIRMAN
HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

DENISSA A. LAUFFER, CLERK TO THE BOARD

COUNTY SEAL