

# Scotland County 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.

Scotland County provided the following narrative information for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (July 2023 through June 2024):

## Annual Settlement Update

Scotland County is a county of approximately 35,000 people located in the Southeastern part of the state of North Carolina, about two hours from the mountains, coast, and any North Carolina metropolitan city. In using the opioid settlement funds, we have built capacity in the continual monthly and now bi-monthly meeting of the Opioid Collaborative. This Collaborative includes both internal and external partners, including the County Health Department, EMS, Sheriff's Office, Department of Social Services, 911, members of the Board of County Commissioners, the Laurinburg Police Dept. and Fire Department, Scotland County Schools, Scotland Health Care System, Scotland County Court System, the Media and Eastpointe, and now Trillium. The meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 2:00 PM, and attendance can be virtual or in person. The bi-monthly meetings are open to the public.

The needs of the county have been identified through these Opioid Collaborative meetings by the participating stakeholders. Needs have also been identified through the Health Department's Community Needs Assessment Survey and concerns vocalized by the citizens to the Commissioners, Mayor, Sheriff's Office, and Police Department. Needs are evident by the numbers seen in our Emergency Departments and calls received and responded to by our EMS and Fire Departments. Lastly, needs are identified by the practitioners in our general, family, and specialty practices.

The first Annual Opioid Collaborative meeting for the community was held in 2022, and the most recent one was October 16, 2023. This meeting provided an opportunity for the citizens to convey their concerns, thoughts, and ask questions. We've involved people with lived experiences by encouraging them to come to our meetings, participate in the meeting, and to share their experiences as they choose.

This year, within our selected strategies, we have formed the Family Treatment Court, the Opioid Outreach Program, Naloxone Distribution Program, and the Safe Choices Program for students grades PreK to 12th. Regarding the Naloxone Distribution strategy, we have ensured that naloxone is in the hands of all our first responders, including those that volunteer. Evaluation strategies will be in place once all of the strategies are fully implemented and data has been received.

## Strategy Spotlights

### ❖ Exhibit A, Strategy 3: Recovery Support Services

### **Progress Narrative**

With this strategy our progress has included the development and creation of marketing resources for the opioid outreach program. These resources will be shared with the community, placed in medical offices and county departments. Other media and outreach efforts are in progress, and they will prove both productive and positive. We were able to provide the director with opportunities to visit other outreach programs, to check out how they operate, generate interest from those with lived experiences, how to garner referrals, maintain continued participation, and some of successes and challenges experienced. We also consider the progress with the 2023 opioid collaborative community event, the attendance increased, there was more interest from the community, and a representative from the NC Association of County Commissioners was on the program to speak and answer questions. We look forward to continuing progress with this strategy as we work to provide a direct impact to Scotland County and its citizens.

### **❖ Exhibit A, Strategy 3: Recovery Support Services**

#### **Success Narrative**

Scotland County's success story is the Opioid Collaborative, the stakeholders, the diversity of the members, its ability to work together as a team for the Scotland County community and the longevity of this collaborative. Over the years since its inception, some members have moved, changed jobs, etc., but these agencies/businesses and organizations have filled the gaps, and we continue to march on.

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

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