



As North Carolina Directs Opioid Settlement Funds Toward Treatment, Carolina Recovery Highlights Local Access to Care

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As North Carolina continues distributing its share of the national opioid settlement, more than \$1.4 billion earmarked for addiction treatment, recovery, and harm reduction programs, local governments and treatment providers across the state are working to expand access to evidence-based opioid rehabilitation. Durham Recovery Center, an opioid rehab center serving Raleigh and the surrounding Wake County area, says the funding is a meaningful step, but points to a continued need for accessible treatment options for individuals and families affected by opioid use disorder.

The North Carolina settlement is part of a broader \$56 billion national agreement announced by Attorney General Josh Stein, reached with pharmaceutical manufacturers, distributors, and retailers found to have contributed to the opioid crisis. Under the terms of the settlement, funds are distributed to the state and all 100 counties over an 18-year period, with local governments required to direct spending toward treatment, recovery support, harm reduction, and prevention efforts.

Wake County has already begun allocating its portion of the funds toward a range of programs, including

expanded Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) access, peer support specialist positions, naloxone distribution, and recovery housing support for individuals transitioning out of residential treatment. In September, the Wake County Board of Commissioners approved a formal funding plan directing resources toward organizations including Healing Transitions, the Fellowship Home of Raleigh, and Illuminate NC, among others working directly with individuals in active recovery.

Beyond the direct funding, the settlement also included accountability measures requiring the pharmaceutical companies involved to limit certain distribution and sales practices linked to the opioid crisis. North Carolina will host the NC Summit on Reducing Overdose in Wake County in March 2027, bringing together local government leaders, subject matter experts, treatment providers, community partners, and people with lived experience of substance use disorder. The summit is expected to focus on prevention, early intervention, harm reduction, treatment, and long-term recovery, offering local governments a chance to compare notes on what has and hasn't worked as settlement dollars continue rolling out statewide.

"Settlement funding is helping close real gaps in the system, but funding alone doesn't get someone through detox or connect them with the right level of care on the day they're ready to ask for help," said a spokesperson for Durham Recovery Center. "Local treatment providers play a role alongside these public investments, particularly for people who need to start treatment quickly rather than wait for a program with an opening."

Durham Recovery Center offers a range of services for individuals struggling with opioid addiction, including medically supervised detox, inpatient and outpatient treatment, and Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOP), combined with evidence-based therapy and support for co-occurring mental health conditions. The organization works with clients to verify insurance coverage and explore payment options as part of the intake process.

According to the North Carolina Opioid Settlement dashboard, counties across the state are still in the early stages of implementing many settlement-funded programs, with several initiatives beginning full implementation in 2026. Public health officials and advocacy organizations have noted that while settlement dollars represent a significant investment, treatment capacity, workforce availability, and the time it takes to stand up new programs remain ongoing challenges statewide.

For families and individuals seeking treatment now, Durham Recovery Center says it aims to serve as one accessible entry point into care while the broader, publicly funded system continues to expand.

Durham Recovery Center provides opioid addiction treatment services to individuals throughout Raleigh and

the greater Wake County area. More information about the organization's programs is available at recoverycentercarolinas.com/opioid-rehab-center.

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