



**ORANGE COUNTY
HIGH IMPACT OPIOID ABATEMENT STRATEGIES
Funding Proposal Application Form
Application Due Date: February 21, 2025**

Applicant Agency: General Information				
Legal Name	Freedom House Recovery Center, Inc.			
Address	104 New Stateside Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27516			
Type of Agency (check one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Government/ Public Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit	<input type="checkbox"/> For-Profit Business	
Telephone	919-942-2803 ext. 1010			
Website	www.FreedomHouseRecovery.org			
Primary Contact Full Name	Joyce Harper			
Title	Chief Executive Officer			
Email	Joyce.H@FreedomHouseRecovery.org			
Telephone	919-879-6073			
Name of Project	Reentry Support for Justice Involved Adults			
Total Application Funding Requested		\$ 144,926.10		
Funding Period Requested (MM/DD/YYYY)	Start Date	July 1, 2025	End Date	June 30, 2027
Selected NC MOA Option A Strategy (Number and Name)	10: Criminal Justice Diversion Programs			
Agency Mission and Vision Statements	<p>Our mission is to serve all in our community on their path to recovery – no matter who they are or what challenges they face.</p> <p>Our vision is that all seeking recovery are connected to the care and resources they need to reach their fullest potential.</p>			

2. Project Narrative

A. Assessment of Community Need (16 points, page limit: not to exceed 1 ½ pages)

Drug addiction often increases the likelihood of continued criminal activity, with high rates of relapse and recidivism among drug-involved offenders. More alarmingly, an individual's death within the first two weeks of release from incarceration is more than 12 times higher than other individuals. (*news.unhealthcare.org*). Multiple studies have consistently shown that drug overdose is more common when a person relapses after a period of abstinence. These statistics are individual lives that could potentially be saved, or diverted from ongoing justice system involvement, with proper screening and referral to substance misuse treatment that begins during incarceration and continues without lapse upon release.

According to the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigations' Index Offenses by Agency by County, 2023, the Orange County Sheriff's Office reported a total crime index of 508 offenses, with 56% for larceny, 18% for burglary, and 8% for motor vehicle theft – Class H or I offenses. The same report shows that Chapel Hill reported 1803 offenses, with 70% for larceny, 12% for burglary, and 11% for motor vehicle theft. Hillsborough reported 485 offenses, with 84% for larceny and Carrboro reported 556 offenses with 67% for larceny. Furthermore, 2023 data pulled from the North Carolina Injury and Violence Prevention Branch shows the estimated Illicit Opioid Overdose rate in Orange County is 65.6% of overdose deaths. This rate is considered a high rate in the state of North Carolina. This rate is also a 3% increase over the previous year. In addition, the rate of children in foster care due to parental substance misuse in Orange County was 72.8% of children in 2023. This rate is among the highest rates seen in NC even though it is 1% lower than the prior year.

These numbers, combined with the alarmingly high mortality rate among justice-involved individuals, highlight the immense need for continued substance use treatment, especially during and immediately following incarceration. For the greatest impact we believe treatment that begins as early as booking and continues uninterrupted after release could have the greatest impact. We based this assessment on the North Carolina Injury and Violence Prevention Branch report which states that the number of people accessing Treatment Services in Orange County was 336.6 out of 100,000 residents in 2023, representing 507.0 uninsured people and Medicaid beneficiaries who received treatment for their Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). This is an increase from the 461 uninsured people and Medicaid beneficiaries who received treatment for their Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) in 2022 which represented a rate of 306.8 out of 100,000 residents.

Freedom House Recovery Center (FHRC) proposes to continue our partnership with the Criminal Justice Resource Department (CJRD) on Lantern Project, serving as the primary

treatment source for justice involved individuals exiting the Orange County jail with substance use diagnosis (SUD). Together FHRC and CJRD have served nearly 150 justice involved individuals, connecting them to treatment, peer support, housing and ongoing community-based support.

Freedom House Recovery Center has partnered with CJRD on Lantern Project to further the evidence-based treatment options and recovery support services available since its start in 2021. Lantern Project is a law enforcement diversion, harm reduction and treatment resource for justice-involved individuals with substance use disorder (SUD) and opioid use disorder (OUD).

Freedom House will continue to help the Lantern Project to reduce trauma and the unnecessary cost of court involvement and incarceration. FHRC provides critical treatment resources and peer support that enhance recovery and healthy outcomes among historically marginalized justice involved populations. FHRC helps decrease the cost to law enforcement and the court system for low level Class H or Class I offenses where substance use has been an underlying issue. FHRC provides Lantern clients with re-entry treatment aid and support that help to reduce recidivism and relapses while improving the likelihood of sustained recovery, including gainful employment, housing stability and family reunification.

B. Project Description and Program Sustainability *(28 points, page limit: not to exceed 3 pages)*

Freedom House Recovery Center is submitting this proposal under Option A, Implementation Strategy 10: Criminal Justice Diversion Programs to support pre-arrest or post-arrest diversion programs and pre-trial services for justice involved individuals with SUD and OUD. In partnership with CJRD, Freedom House will continue working on Lantern Project to provide evidence-based addiction treatment, recovery support, harm reduction services, housing support, employment related services, peer support services and ongoing outpatient treatment for justice involved individuals in Orange County. The Lantern Project has consistently worked to increase the number of justice involved individuals with a history of opioid use who are connected to proper treatment - particularly among marginalized populations. FHRC employs a full-time licensed clinician and a Certified Peer Support Specialist (PSS) to work with Lantern Project to divert individuals with SUD from the Orange County justice system and jail into substance misuse treatment, which could be a more appropriate path to stifle continued justice involvement. FHRC also helps decrease the number of opioid overdoses as individuals enter treatment immediately from jail engaging with the supportive care needed to avoid relapses among those recently released from incarceration.

CJRD collaborates with the magistrate and district attorney to identify low level offenders who have a history of substance use. Clients who are screened as eligible for enrollment with Lantern Project are referred to Freedom House with client consent for ongoing treatment. Our clinician then visits the individual while incarcerated to engage the potential client for further assessment. Then, if appropriate, the licensed clinician will refer the client to a FHRC Peer Support Specialist (PSS) to begin supporting the client in preparing for their next steps following release from jail.

Individuals referred to Freedom House begin their journey by meeting with a licensed clinician for a clinical assessment. The assessment allows the clinician to gain an understanding of the client's history, current needs, and wants, as well as make a treatment recommendation based on the client's needs. Clinicians are trained to use the evidence-based practice of Motivational Interviewing (MI) to help each client recognize their overarching desire for change and to expose any ambivalence towards change. MI allows clients to progress at their own pace while addressing barriers that may present during the assessment process.

Following the clinical assessment, and once the client is released from jail, the Peer Support Specialist helps facilitate the next steps, including an appointment with the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) for medical assessment. The PMHNP will meet with the client to determine if medication such as Buprenorphine or Naltrexone is the best course of treatment for the client. When appropriate, the client will be scheduled for their first dose to begin evidence-based Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in combination with counseling and behavioral health therapies to treat opioid use disorders (OUD). Clients who come to Freedom House already on MAT are screened by the PMHNP to ensure the safe continuation of MAT services.

As part of the clinical assessment process, the clinician will also assess individuals with a history of addiction who are re-entering the community from prison for enrollment in treatment services including Seeking Safety therapy, an evidence-based treatment that helps people with trauma, posttraumatic stress disorder, and substance misuse. Seeking Safety (SS) is a coping skills approach to help people reach safety from trauma and/or addiction. It is present-focused and designed to be safe, optimistic, and engaging. The treatment is highly flexible which allows clients to join the group at any point in the program and stay engaged through completion of all sections. It can be used early in the treatment process as it is stabilization oriented.

If substance use halfway housing is determined to be a need for the client, they can begin the enrollment process for the halfway house. Enrollment includes the Halfway House Manager, who has QP credentials, collaborating with the client to develop a person-centered treatment plan. The treatment plan includes the goals and objectives

the client would like to achieve while living in this supportive environment. The substance use halfway house is a structured, six-month residential program that is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days per week by trained and certified Peers who help the client solve problems, connect to resources, and stabilize their mental and physical health.

Peers also facilitate evidence-based practices such as Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP), Wellness, Management and Recovery (WMR), and other life skills groups to help clients develop critical living and coping skills. The interdisciplinary treatment team and the client work together to ensure the strategies implemented are working for the client. The team meets weekly to evaluate each client's progress towards their recovery goals, behavioral health goals, physical health goals, and activities of daily living goals. When appropriate, the goals will be updated or changed as they are achieved or as the client becomes clearer about their desires for the future. FHRC takes recovery as a step-by-step process that includes several small victories in route to the goal of long-term recovery and stability.

The FHRC clinician and PSS will also serve as liaison between FHRC and the CJRD staff. With proper consents in place, the FHRC clinician and PSS will advise CJRD of each Lantern client's progress towards their goals and assist with tracking outcomes. The FHRC staff will communicate with CJRD weekly via scheduled case conferences, or as needed, to review each client's care and progress throughout treatment. CJRD will also communicate with FHRC as needed to convey new referrals and to update the FHRC clinician and PSS on each client's status around court involvement/appearances. FHRC PSS also aids the client in adhering to court ordered appearances and/or conditions.

FHRC maintains a team approach to serving justice involved clients. During weekly team meetings the interdisciplinary team will discuss the needs and challenges faced by clients to connect them with a broader service array. The treatment team discussion can begin when the client engages with FHRC clinician regardless of whether they are still incarcerated or living in the community. In the treatment team meeting is where the FHRC staff discuss the unmet needs of their current or soon to be released clients. The Lantern PPS and clinician also work to ensure that in addition to treatment, we address the social determinants of health as well. This includes ensuring the client is enrolled in Medicaid so they can see a physician, the client is connected to proper housing and food options, helping with job skills training and/or employment opportunities as well as other identified needs. As with all our clients, FHRC encourages ongoing connection to some level of treatment support for up to 12 months – which most experts agree is the length of time recommended for "sustained recovery" exemplified by significant improvements in life functioning and decreased incidents of relapse.

Freedom House has been working with CJRD on Lantern Project for four years. The North Carolina Overdose Epidemic data from the Injury and Violence Prevention Branch of the North Carolina Division of Public Health reflects the positive outcomes occurring across Orange County in the efforts to overcome the opioid epidemic. Most recent data show Orange County has recorded a drop in Fentanyl Positive Deaths 2024 YTD to 11 which represents a decrease from the high of 28 in 2021. In addition, the estimated rate of Overdose Deaths in Orange County in 2023 was 21.0 out of 100,000 residents. This rate is a decrease from the 36 out of 100,000 residents in 2022 who died of overdose in Orange County. These statistics also stand for the realization of the Freedom House vision that all seeking recovery are connected to the care and resources they need to reach their fullest potential. We work towards this vision daily because we believe all are worthy of a full life in recovery and that hope in recovery awaits all who seek it.

FHRC currently has a full-time licensed clinician and peer support dedicated to the Lantern Project. As we continue to expand the program and our support of justice involved individuals, we will increase engagement in ongoing recovery groups for graduates of the program. We will also look to begin providing Seeking Safety support for individuals while incarcerated. This evidence-based curriculum is designed to be used one on one or in a group setting. Incorporating this into our treatment opens the possibility of engaging added justice involved individuals in various settings with the goal of ongoing engagement upon release from incarceration.

C. Equity Impact (8 points, page limit: not to exceed ¾ page)

For the justice-involved population in Orange County, barriers related to mental health and social determinants of health have made access to substance use treatment more challenging. Barriers to recovery services include lack of transportation, uncontrolled mental health, uninsured or underinsured individuals, and a lack of knowledge of local resources. In addition, social determinants of health such as housing instability or homelessness, food insecurity for themselves and their families as well as feeling overwhelmed often contribute to illicit drug use.

According to the December 2023 North Carolina Criminal Justice Data Snapshot, in 2022 more people died of a drug overdose than by suicide and homicide combined. In January 2022, 9,382 people in North Carolina were experiencing homelessness at a rate of 88 per 100,000 residents, which is the 8th-highest state homelessness rate in the region. Of the people released from prison in 2012, 71 percent were rearrested within 5 years of release, 54 percent were convicted of a new offense, and 46 percent returned to prison. Across the state, the arrest rate for Black individuals is 2.3 times higher than it is for White people. And the prison incarceration rate remains over 5 times higher for the Black population compared to the White population. In North Carolina in 2022, 19

percent of Black people and 22 percent of Latino people earned incomes below the federal poverty level.

The two priority populations Lantern Program serves are incarcerated or recently incarcerated with opioid use disorders, and individuals at risk of becoming justice-involved due to addiction-related behaviors and encounters with law enforcement. Although neither age nor race will impact participation, Freedom House will work with Lantern to outreach individuals in the county jail from historically marginalized populations, such as Black and Hispanic communities where resources and services are harder to access. Freedom House has a history of collaborating with community providers to ensure our clients have access to culturally competent services and resources. Freedom House utilizes evidence-based practices to engage clients, and their families and natural supports in an array of services to begin and maintain sustained recovery.

Individuals referred to Freedom House are served regardless of their county of residence, insurance status or ability to pay. The assessment process allows the clinician to gain an understanding of the client's history, current needs, and wants, as well as make a treatment recommendation based on the client's needs. Clinicians use evidence-based skills to help clients progress while addressing emotional, psychosocial and/or environmental barriers that could impact their goals. The licensed clinician and PSS work with the individual to connect them to local resources including housing, food, public benefits and healthcare, harm reduction resources, etc.

D. Organizational Readiness (20 points, page limit: not to exceed 3 pages)

For 50 years, Freedom House Recovery Center, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has been a pioneer in behavioral health treatment in our community. Our mission is to serve all in our community on their path to recovery – no matter who they are or what challenges they face. We are committed to promoting, enhancing, and supporting recovery for men and women affected by substance misuse and/or mental health diagnoses through an evidence-based, comprehensive, and person-centered approach. The agency began in 1974 as a social setting detox and halfway house in Chapel Hill and has consistently grown to address the critical and changing needs of North Carolinians in our service areas. Currently, Freedom House operates outpatient behavioral health clinics in Chapel Hill, Roxboro, Durham, and Warrenton. We also operate a 10-bed men's house and a 12-bed women's house in Chapel Hill; an 11-bed men's house and a 6-bed women's house in Durham with a second 6-bed women's house opening in Durham in March 2025; a 12-bed men's house in Norlina and we will be opening an 8-bed men's house in Roxboro by July 2025. In addition to our outpatient clinics and halfway houses, Freedom House also operates a 16-bed facility-based crisis unit in Chapel Hill that

receives clients from all 100 North Carolina Counties, and we provide mobile crisis services in Alamance, Person, Durham, Orange and Caswell counties.

Freedom House is credentialled and contracted with all four Tailored Plans in addition to the Standard Plans and other private insurances. This agency has consistently held contracts with LMEs/MCOs dating back to their origination. Our contracts have consistently been renewed without loss and have never been stopped early. Contracted services include clinical assessment, outpatient individual and group therapy (SAIOIP, SACOT), medication management, medication-assisted treatment, peer support individual and group (WRAP, WMR); facility-based crisis, substance use halfway house; and mobile crisis team. In the last four years, Freedom House has received three SAMHSA grants, including a two-year Community Mental Health Center (CMHC); a four-year grant for Increasing Mental Health Awareness (MHAT) and a two-year Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) grant resulting in Freedom House receiving full attestation from SAMHSA for certification.

Freedom House offers a variety of services geared toward meeting client needs in the community. Our outpatient clinics provide individualized and community-based services to adults and children who have a moderate to chronic substance use diagnosis, mental illness, or those who are dually diagnosed with MH/SUDs or MH/IDD or SUDs/IDD. The intensity and frequency of services depend on the client's readiness for treatment and life-domain needs. Freedom House utilizes evidence-based practices to engage clients, and their families and natural supports in an array of services to begin and maintain recovery or crisis stabilization. We hold a strong belief that by supporting people in need, Freedom House is supporting positive changes to help the entire community.

Freedom House has strong connections with law enforcement in each of the counties we serve, along with many local and regional treatment courts, probation and parole boards, local juvenile justice coalitions, and hospitals – including a contract with Person Memorial Hospital to provide crisis support services. Freedom House's experience of working on behalf of justice-involved individuals includes its work with the Drug Treatment Courts in Orange and Durham Counties, and its work with the Orange County Criminal Justice Resource Department (CJRD) on multiple grant funded diversion projects to support justice-involved individuals with an Opioid Use Disorder and Mental Health diagnoses.

Since its inception, the Criminal Justice Resource Department has partnered closely with Freedom House Recovery Center. Freedom House has served as a primary treatment referral source for hundreds of CJRD clients. The Lantern Project is a partnership between Orange County Criminal Justice Resource Department and Freedom House and works to support justice involved people with substance use disorders by connecting

them to treatment support as soon as possible and staying with them through their journey by providing a licensed clinician and peer support. The Lantern Project has two referral paths – the diversion path works with people who have been arrested or are about to be arrested and the re-entry path collaborates with people who are currently incarcerated and working towards reentry.

Freedom House works collaboratively with multiple service providers to ensure all the clients we serve are connected to the care and resources they need to reach their fullest potential. Our agencywide referral partners include Oxford House for step down housing, El Futuro for culturally competent training and services, Healing Transitions for aftercare services, UNC Hospital, Duke University Medical Center, Person Memorial Hospital as referral partners and Morse Clinics for support with Methadone dosing – just to name a few of our partners.

Currently, Freedom House employs over 150 staff across disciplines serving over 3,000 clients per year. We have learned that recovery is not a one-time event, and it does not occur in a particular order. Our clients require flexibility, consistency, and understanding. They thrive when they have someone who can walk with them without judgment – regardless of how long the walk may be. Freedom House makes employing “peers” – people who are in long term recovery or who are supporting a loved one in recovery – a priority at every level throughout the organization. We acknowledge that where a person starts their recovery journey is not as important as where they end up. Which is why we work with our clients to restore the benefits and privileges that may have been lost due to substance use or uncontrolled mental illness including, driving privileges, safe housing, steady employment, and family relationships. We do this by collaborating with each client individually and by providing safe, supportive opportunities for families to talk, learn, connect and heal.

- E. Evidence of Collaborations/Partnerships** (10 points, page limit: not to exceed 1 ¼ pages)
- Clients served by Freedom House from the Orange County jail are referred by Lantern Project’s Linkage Coordinator. Clients referred are screened for substance abuse and will either be actively incarcerated at the Orange County jail or have recently been released from state prison and working with the Orange County Local Re-entry Council to rejoin the community. Freedom House is now the largest community-based behavioral health provider in Orange County serving adults, children and adolescents with mental health and/or substance use disorders. Most of our clients are indigent and/or uninsured. Despite extensive growth over the years, we have kept a treatment philosophy that values peer intervention and hiring practices that support that philosophy.

Freedom House provides evidence-based clinical treatment services and Peer Support, for the Lantern Project in partnership with Orange County Criminal Justice Resource

Department and local law enforcement. Freedom House has served as a primary treatment source for Justice Department clients in the pre-trial phase, actively enrolled in treatment courts and post-incarceration services since its inception. We have worked with CJRD on Lantern Project since the program began in 2021. CJRD screens individuals incarcerated in Orange County Jail and those recently released from state prison for substance use disorder with priority placed on serving those with Opioid Use Disorder. CJRD provides a warm handoff to Freedom House for our team to begin engaging with the individual while incarcerated to decide the clinically right evidence-based treatment options and social supports that are needed prior to release and/or immediately following release from incarceration. CJRD and Freedom House both work to provide harm reduction education to incarcerated individuals and to provide harm reduction kits upon release to help reduce the risk of overdose.

The Lantern Project's linkage coordinator will work with colleagues at the court, jail and other CJRD staff to oversee all the re-entry services for the county. Lantern staff will ensure that they are not working with reentry or diversion services in another county. FHRC will screen each client at intake and assessment to ensure they are still not enrolled in duplicative services with another North Carolina agency. If we find that the client is enrolled in SUD, OUD or mental health services with another provider, FHRC staff will work to reconnect the client with those services, if still appropriate. If the client is enrolled, but it is decided that the level of care or the services are no longer clinically appropriate, FHRC will work with that agency to have the client discharged or transferred to a more proper level of care.

F. Performance Measures and Program Evaluation (18 points, page limit: not to exceed 1 page)

FHRC's Vice President of Quality Assurance and Training and the Data Analysis team will oversee the preparation and submission of reports. Quantitative and qualitative data will be collected and analyzed to decide the effectiveness of interventions and the accomplishment of project goals.

Quantitative data collected will include:

- Number of unique individuals served
- Number of contacts with individuals
- Demographic information of individuals served (race, ethnicity, age, gender, other identification)
- Number and type of connections to services
- Number of harm reduction kits distributed
- Number of referrals made to other naloxone or harm reduction services

Qualitative data collected will include:

- Challenges to completing project goals, strategies for overcoming these challenges
- Engagement in services, identification of barriers and efforts to address barriers

- Substance use diagnosis and the types of services and treatments received including outcomes

For process evaluation, qualitative data will be collected to report on progress toward grant goals, accomplishments, success stories, barriers, and how barriers were overcome. Data will be collected through client surveys, observations from the interdisciplinary team, input from the CJRD linkage team, and follow-up reports from the PSS. Disparities in service delivery will be recorded and analyzed by the evaluation team. The results will be shared with the program staff to figure out whether any adjustments are needed to ensure we are achieving program goals. The evaluator will analyze data and prepare monthly reports for funders and program staff. Based on the findings, the team will decide if project goals are being met, or if adjustments are needed to achieve the expected outcomes.

Quantitative data will be recorded on reports by the direct care staff. The evaluation team has developed tracking tools to capture accurate, timely data. Information will be collected on the stated outcomes. Clients will also be surveyed to understand their mental health functioning, employment status, substance use characteristics, housing status, and other indicators through self-report. Data will also be analyzed to decide if the program serves a representative number of historically marginalized groups and whether disparities by gender, ethnicity, and race exist in numbers served, service use, functioning, and other outcomes. The evaluation team will track disparities to figure out whether they have been reduced over time or if service adjustments are needed to outreach to enroll more under-represented individuals.

9. Certifications and Required Forms

A. Application Certification

I have reviewed this application for accuracy.

I understand that Opioid Abatement funds are intended to address specific remediation activities as identified under the NC Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Opioid Settlement Funds.

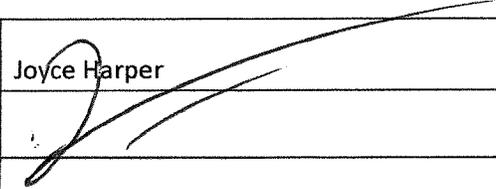
I understand that these opioid settlement funds are subject to State laws and regulations, and I have read the MOA and agree to the requirements.

I certify that the requested funds will be used in compliance with these requirements and with all requirements outlined in the Orange County High Impact Opioid Abatement Strategies RFA.

I agree to submit invoices and other relevant documentation to Orange County to pay or be reimbursed, as well as quarterly status reports, by the date stated in the contract.

I understand that **Orange County** requires agencies with receipts less than \$500,000 that do not have a financial audit (or a financial report), prepared by a certified public accountant (CPA) to complete schedule of Receipts and Expenditures form. An agency does not need to complete this form if it has a prepared audit/report it can submit for the calendar year ending December 31, 2022 or the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. Agencies with receipts totaling \$500,000 or more, from any source, must submit a CPA-certified financial audit.

financial statements for each year that opioid settlement funding is provided to my organization, and that Orange County may monitor the program during the award period.

Agency Authorized Official (print name)	Joyce Harper
Signature	
Title	Chief Executive Officer
Date	2/18/2025

Board Chair/Elected Official (print name)	Paula Harrington
Signature	
Title	Board Chair
Date	2/18/2025

B. Non-profit agencies only: Verification of 501(c)(3) Status Form

IRS Tax Exemption Verification Form (Annual)

I, Joyce Harper, hereby state that I am Chief Executive Officer of
(Printed Name) (Title)
Freedom House Recovery Center ("Organization"), and by that authority duly
(Legal Name of Organization)

given and as the act and deed of the Organization, state that the Organization's status continues to be designated as 501(c)(3) pursuant to U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and the documentation on file with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is current and accurate.

I understand that the penalty for perjury is a Class F Felony in North Carolina pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-209, and that other state laws, including N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143C-10-1, and federal laws may also apply for making perjured and/or false statements or misrepresentations.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this the
18 day of February, 2025.



(Signature)

C. Certification of No Overdue Tax Debts

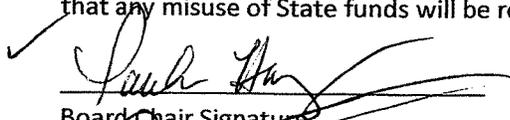
Date of Certification 02/18/2025

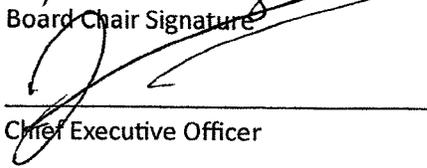
Certification:

We certify that [ORGANIZATION NAME] does not have any overdue tax debts, as defined by N.C.G.S. 105-243.1, at the federal, State, or local level. We further understand that any person who makes a false statement in violation of N.C.G.S. 143C-6-23(c) is guilty of a criminal offense punishable as provided by N.C.G.S.) 143C-10-1b.

Sworn Statement:

[Name of Board Chair] and [Name of Second Authorizing Official] being duly sworn, say that we are the Board Chair and [Title of the Second Authorizing Official], respectively, of [insert name of organization] of [City] in the State of [Name of State]; and that the foregoing certification is true, accurate and complete to the best of our knowledge and was made and subscribed by us. We also acknowledge and understand that any misuse of State funds will be reported to the appropriate authorities for further action.


Board Chair Signature


Chief Executive Officer

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the day of the date of said certification.


(Notary Signature and Seal)

Janice Lee Bass
My Commission Expires: July 4, 2029
NOTARY PUBLIC
Chatham County, NC
My Commission Expires July 04, 2029

¹ G.S. 105-243.1 defines: Overdue tax debt. Any part of a tax debt that remains unpaid 90 days or more after the notice of final assessment was mailed to the taxpayer. The term does not include a tax debt, however, if the taxpayer entered into an installment agreement for the tax debt under G.S. 105-237 within 90 days after the notice of final assessment was mailed and has not failed to make any payments due under the installment agreement."

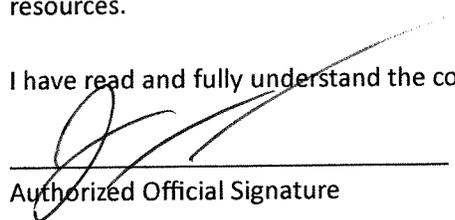
D. Code of Conduct Policy

Each recipient of award shall maintain a written Code of Standards of Conduct which shall govern the performance of its officers, employees or agents in contracting with and/or expending Older Americans Act funds and State appropriations.

The recipient Agency's officers, employees or agents shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors or anything of monetary value from contractors or potential contractors. To the extent permissible under state or local laws, rules or regulations, such standards shall provide for appropriate penalties, sanctions, or other disciplinary actions to be applied for violations of such standards either by the officers, employees or agents of the recipient Agency or by contractors or their agents.

Awards will be made only to responsible Agency(ies) possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as Agency's integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources.

I have read and fully understand the context of the information above.

	<u>Chief Executive Officer</u>	<u>2/28/2025</u>
Authorized Official Signature	Title	Date

E. Conflict of Interest Policy

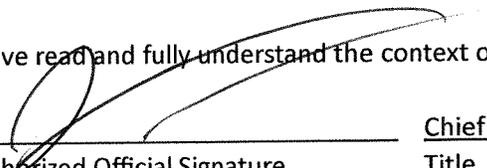
The Board of Directors/Trustees or other governing persons, officers, employees or agents are to avoid any conflict of interest, even the appearance of a conflict of interest. The Organization's Board of Directors/Trustees or other governing body, officers, staff and agents are obligated to always act in the best interest of the organization. This obligation requires that any Board member or other governing person, officer, employee or agent, in the performance of Organization duties, seek only the furtherance of the Organization mission. At all times, Board members or other governing persons, officers, employees or agents, are prohibited from using their job title, the Organization's name or property, for private profit or benefit.

- a. The Board members or other governing persons, officers, employees, or agents of the Organization should neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from current or potential contractors/vendors, persons receiving benefits from the Organization or persons who may benefit from the actions of any Board member or other governing person, officer, employee or agent. This is not intended to preclude bona-fide Organization fund raising-activities.
- b. A Board or other governing body member may, with the approval of Board or other governing body, receive honoraria for lectures and other such activities while not acting in any official capacity for the Organization. Officers may, with the approval of the Board or other governing body, receive honoraria for lectures and other such activities while on personal days, compensatory time, annual leave, or leave without pay. Employees may, with the prior written approval of their supervisor, receive honoraria for lectures and other such activities while on personal days, compensatory time, annual leave, or leave without pay. If a Board or other governing body member, officer, employee or agent is acting in any official capacity, honoraria received in connection with activities relating to the Organization are to be paid to the Organization.
- c. No Board member or other governing person, officer, employee, or agent of the Organization shall participate in the selection, award, or administration of a purchase or contract with a vendor where, to his knowledge, any of the following has a financial interest in that purchase or contract:
 1. The Board member or other governing person, officer, employee, or agent;
 2. Any member of their family or personal relationship;
 3. An organization in which any of the above is an officer, director, or employee;
 4. A person or organization with whom any of the above individuals is negotiating or has any arrangement concerning prospective employment or contracts.
- d. **Duty to Disclosure** -- Any conflict of interest, potential conflict of interest, or the appearance of a conflict of interest is to be reported to the Board or other governing body or one's supervisor immediately.

- e. **Board Action** -- When a conflict of interest is relevant to a matter requiring action by the Board of Directors/Trustees or other governing body, the Board member or other governing person, officer, employee, or agent (person(s)) must disclose the existence of the conflict of interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the Board and members of committees with governing board delegated powers considering the possible conflict of interest. After disclosure of all material facts, and after any discussion with the person, they shall leave the governing board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

In addition, the person(s) shall not participate in the final deliberation or decision regarding the matter under consideration and shall leave the meeting during the discussion of and vote of the Board of Directors/Trustees or other governing body.

I have read and fully understand the context of the information above.

 _____	<u>Chief Executive Officer</u>	<u>2/18/2025</u>
Authorized Official Signature	Title	Date

F. Appendix E: E-Verify

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AFFIDAVIT
COUNTY OF ORANGE

I, Joyce Harper (the individual attesting below), being duly authorized by and on behalf of Freedom House Recovery Center, Inc. (the entity contracting with Orange County hereinafter "Employer") after first being duly sworn hereby swears or affirms as follows:

1. Employer understands that E-Verify is the federal E-Verify program operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security and other federal agencies, or any successor or equivalent program used to verify the work authorization of newly hired employees pursuant to federal law in accordance with NCGS §64-25(5).
2. Employer understands that Employers Must Use E-Verify. Each employer, if employing 25 or more employees in this State, after hiring an employee to work in the United States, shall verify the work authorization of the employee through E-Verify in accordance with NCGS§64-26(a).
3. Employer is a person, business entity, or other organization that transacts business in this State and that employs 25 or more employees in this State. (Mark Yes or No)
a. YES or b. NO
4. Employer's subcontractors comply with E-Verify, and Employer will ensure compliance with E-Verify by any subcontractors subsequently hired by Employer during the term of its contract with Orange County.

This 18th day of February, 2025.

Signature of Affiant [Handwritten Signature]

Print or Type Name Joyce Harper

NORTH CAROLINA NOTARY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF Orange

Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me, this 18th day of February, 2025

My Commission Expires: July 4, 2029

Notary Public, Janice L. Bass

Notary Public Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

[Official Seal]
Janice Lee Bass
NOTARY PUBLIC
Chatham County, NC
My Commission Expires July 04, 2029

G. Discrimination Policy

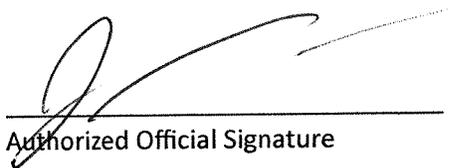
Each recipient of award shall maintain a discrimination policy ensuring that they do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, religion, age, sex/gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, veteran status, or source of income in the administration of its programs or activities, as required by applicable laws and regulations. The recipient agency should identify officer, employee or agent responsible for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning non-discrimination requirements implemented by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Distribution Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and other applicable laws. Said officer, employee or agent's contact information shall be included below. Discrimination complaint form should be attached or link to discrimination form included below.

Responsible officer/employee/agent: Joyce Harper

Responsible officer/employee/agent phone number: 919-942-2803 ext 1010

Responsible officer/employee/agent email address: Joyce.H@FreedomHouseRecovery.org

Link to discrimination complaint form (if not attached): attached

	<u>Chief Executive Officer</u>	<u>2/18/2025</u>
Authorized Official Signature	Title	Date

H. Authorization for Individuals to Sign Contracts and Submit Reporting

[Letter from Board President/Chairperson identifying individuals as authorized to sign contracts, expenditure reports, and performance reports]

I, Paula Harrington, Board President/Chairperson

of Freedom House Recovery Center, Inc. [Agency/Organization’s legal name]
hereby identify the following individual(s) who is (are) authorized to sign and/or submit documentation for the organization named above:

Contracts:

Printed Name:	Title:	Email address:
1. <u>Joyce Harper</u>	<u>Chief Executive Officer</u>	<u>Joyce.H@FreedomHouseRecovery.org</u>
2. <u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
3. <u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>

Expenditure Reports:

Printed Name:	Title:	Email address:
1. <u>Shaneka Parker</u>	<u>Chief Financial Officer</u>	<u>Shaneka.P@FreedomHouseRecovery.org</u>
2. <u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
3. <u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>

Performance Reports:

	Printed Name:	Title:	Email address:
1.	<u>Joyce Harper</u>	<u>Chief Executive Officer</u>	<u>Joyce H@freedomhouserecovery.org</u>
2.	<u>Heather Griffin-Dolciney</u>	<u>VP QA and Training</u>	<u>Heather.G@freedomhouserecovery.org</u>
3.	<u>Amanda Church</u>	<u>Data Analyst</u>	<u>Amanda.c@freedomhouserecovery.org</u>

Paula Harrington
Board President or Chair printed name

Board Chair
* Title

✓ Paula Harrington
Signature

2/18/25
Date

I. Business Associate Addendum

THIS ADDENDUM is made this 18th day of February, 2025 to a contractual arrangement between the parties (“Agreement”).

WHEREAS **Orange County** is itself a Covered Entity, as that term is defined in HIPAA and will be referred to as “Covered Entity”; and

WHEREAS, Freedom House Recovery Center, Inc. is, or may be, a Business Associate of Covered Entity and will be referred to as “Business Associate”; and

WHEREAS, Business Associate performs certain services on behalf of or for Covered Entity that require the exchange of information about patients that is protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, as amended, and the Privacy, Security, Breach Notification, and Enforcement Rules at 45 CFR Part 160 and Part 164 (collectively “HIPAA”).

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties to the Agreement are entering into this Addendum to establish the responsibilities of both parties regarding HIPAA-covered information and to bring the Agreement into compliance with HIPAA.

I. DEFINITIONS

Except as otherwise defined herein, terms used in this Addendum shall have the same meaning as the terms are defined in HIPAA.

II. OBLIGATIONS OF BUSINESS ASSOCIATE

To comply with the Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification obligations imposed by HIPAA, Business Associate agrees to:

A. Privacy and Security Obligations:

1. Not use nor disclose information other than as permitted or required by the Agreement, this Addendum or as required by law.
2. Use appropriate safeguards to prevent use or disclosure of the information other than as provided for by the Agreement and this Addendum.
3. Comply with Subpart C of 45 CFR Part 164 with respect to electronic PHI (protected health information) to prevent use or disclosure of PHI other than as provided for by the Agreement.
4. Report to Covered Entity any use or disclosure of the information not provided for by the Agreement of which Business Associate becomes aware, including breaches of Unsecured PHI as required by 45 CFR 164.410.
5. In accordance with 45 CFR 164.502(e)(1)(ii) and 164.308(b)(2), if applicable, ensure that any agents or subcontractors that create, receive, maintain, or transmit PHI on behalf of Business Associate agree, in writing, to the same restrictions, conditions, and requirements that apply to Business Associate with respect to such information.
6. Make available PHI in a designated set record set to Covered Entity upon request within three (3) working days as necessary to satisfy Covered Entity’s obligations under 45 CFR 164.524. If Business Associate receives a request for access directly from the individual, then

- Business Associate will forward the individual's request to Covered Entity within three (3) working days to be fulfilled by Covered Entity.
7. If Business Associate receives a request pursuant to 45 CFR 164.526 to make any amendment(s) to PHI in a designated record set directly from the individual, then Business Associate will forward the individual's request to Covered Entity within three (3) working days to be fulfilled by Covered Entity.
 8. Maintain and make available upon request within three (3) working days the information required to provide an accounting of disclosures to Covered Entity as necessary to satisfy Covered Entity's obligations under 45 CFR 164.528. If Business Associate receives a request to provide an accounting of disclosures directly from the individual, then Business Associate will forward the individual's request to Covered Entity within three (3) working days to be fulfilled by Covered Entity.
 9. Make its internal practices, books, and records relating to the use of PHI received from Covered Entity, or created or received by Business Associate on behalf of Covered Entity, available to the Secretary of DHHS and Covered Entity for purposes of determining compliance with HIPAA.
 10. To the extent practicable, mitigate any harmful effects that are known to Business Associate of a use or disclosure of PHI or a breach of Unsecured PHI in violation of this Addendum.
 11. Use and disclose an individual's PHI only if such use or disclosure is in compliance with the applicable requirements of 45 CFR 164.504(e) and the terms of this Addendum.
 12. Refrain from exchanging any PHI with any entity of which Business Associate knows of a pattern of activity or practice that constitutes a breach as defined by North Carolina State Law, HIPAA, or this Addendum.
 13. To the extent Business Associate is to carry out one or more of Covered Entity's obligation(s) under Subpart E of 45 CFR Part 164, comply with the requirements of Subpart E that apply to Covered Entity in the performance of such obligation(s).

B. Breach Notification:

In the event that Business Associate discovers any use or disclosure of PHI not provided for by the Agreement, including breaches of Unsecured PHI as required at 45 CFR 164.410, and any security incident of which it becomes aware, Business Associate agrees to take the following measures within three (3) working days after Business Associate first becomes aware of the incident:

1. To notify Covered Entity of any incident involving the acquisition, access, use or disclosure of Unsecured PHI in a manner not permitted under 45 CFR Part E. Such notice by Business Associate shall be provided without unreasonable delay, except where a law enforcement official determines that a notification would impede a criminal investigation or cause damage to national security. For purposes of clarity for this provision, Business Associate must notify Covered Entity of any such incident within the above timeframe even if Business Associate has not conclusively determined within that time that the incident constitutes a breach as defined by HIPAA. For purposes of this Addendum, Business Associate is deemed to have become aware of the breach as of the first day on which such breach is known or reasonably should have been known to such entity or associate of Business Associate, including any person, other than the individual committing the breach, that is an employee, officer or other agent of Business Associate or an associate of Business Associate.

2. To include in the above-described notification the names of the individuals whose Unsecured PHI has been, or is reasonably believed to have been, the subject of a breach.
3. To provide a draft letter to Covered Entity to utilize to notify the individuals that their Unsecured PHI has been, or is reasonably believed to have been, the subject of a breach. The draft letter must include, to the extent possible:
 - a. A brief description of what happened, including the date of the breach and the date of the discovery of the breach, if known;
 - b. A description of the types of Unsecured PHI that were involved in the breach (such as full name, Social Security Number, date of birth, home address, account number, disability code, or other types of information that were involved);
 - c. Any steps the individuals should take to protect themselves from potential harm resulting from the breach;
 - d. A brief description of what Covered Entity and Business Associate are doing to investigate the breach, to mitigate losses, and to protect against any further breaches; and
 - e. Contact information for individuals to ask questions or learn additional information, which shall include a toll-free telephone number, an email address, web site, or postal address.

III. TERMINATION

- A. This Addendum will terminate automatically, without further action by either party, upon termination of the Agreement to which it is attached.
- B. Covered Entity may terminate this Addendum if Covered Entity determines that Business Associate has violated a material term of the Agreement or this Addendum.
- C. Upon Covered Entity's gaining knowledge of a breach, as defined by North Carolina State Law or HIPAA, by Business Associate or any of its agents or subcontractors, of the Agreement or this Addendum, Covered Entity shall either:
 1. Provide an opportunity for Business Associate to cure the breach or end the violation, and if Business Associate does not cure the breach or end the violation within the time specified by Covered Entity, terminate this Addendum and the attached Agreement; or
 2. Immediately terminate this Addendum and the attached Agreement if either has been breached by a Business Associate, and a cure is not possible.
- D. In situations where it is not practicable to terminate this Agreement, Covered Entity shall report Business Associate's breach as defined by North Carolina State Law or HIPAA to the Secretary of DHHS, and continue under the existing arrangement with Business Associate until a reasonable alternative becomes available, or until directed by the Secretary of DHHS to terminate the Agreement.
- E. At termination of the attached Agreement and this Addendum, or upon request of Covered Entity, whichever occurs first, Business Associate shall:
 1. If feasible, return or destroy all PHI that Business Associate still maintains in any form, received from Covered Entity or created, maintained or received by Business Associate on behalf of Covered Entity. Business Associate shall only destroy PHI with the written approval of Covered Entity. After return or destruction, Business Associate shall retain no copies of such information.
 2. If return or destruction is not feasible, Business Associate will provide Covered Entity with documentation explaining the reason it is not feasible. If the PHI is not returned or destroyed, Business Associate will extend the protection of this Addendum to the

information and limit further uses and disclosures to those purposes that make the return or destruction of the information not feasible.

- F. The obligations of Business Associate under this Addendum shall survive the expiration, termination or cancellation of the attached Agreement and this Addendum, and shall continue to bind Business Associate, its agents, employees, contractors, successors and assigns, as set forth herein.
- G. Business Associate shall indemnify Covered Entity for costs associated with any incident involving the acquisition, access, use or disclosure of Unsecured PHI by Business Associate, any agent or subcontractor, in a manner not permitted under 45 CFR Subpart E.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. All PHI that is created or received by Covered Entity and disclosed or made available in any form, including paper record, oral communication, audio recording and electronic display by Covered Entity or its operating units to Business Associate, or is created or received by Business Associate on Covered Entity's behalf, shall be subject to this Addendum.
- B. In the event of an inconsistency between the provisions of this Addendum and the mandatory provisions of HIPAA, as amended, HIPAA shall control. Where provisions of this Addendum are not included as mandated provisions in HIPAA, but are nonetheless permitted by HIPAA, the provisions of this Addendum shall control.
- C. Except as expressly stated herein or in HIPAA, the parties to this Addendum do not intend to create any rights in any third parties.
- D. This Addendum may be amended or modified only in writing signed by the parties. No party may assign its rights or obligations under this Addendum without the prior written consent of the other party. None of the provisions of this Addendum are intended to create, nor will they be deemed to create, any relationship between the parties other than that of independent parties, contracting with each other solely for the purpose of effecting the provisions of this Addendum and any other agreements between the parties concerning their business relationship.
- E. This Addendum will be governed by the laws of the State of North Carolina, venue **Orange County**.
- F. No change, waiver, or discharge of any liability or obligation hereunder on any one or more occasion shall be deemed a waiver of performance of any continuing obligation, or prohibit enforcement of any obligation, on any other occasion.
- G. In the event that any documentation of the arrangement pursuant to which Business Associate provides services to Covered Entity contains provisions relating to the use or disclosure of PHI that are more restrictive than the provisions of this Addendum, the provisions of the more restrictive documentation will control.
- H. In the event that any provision of this Addendum is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions of this Addendum shall remain in full force and effect.
- I. Headings in this Addendum are for convenience of reference only and shall not define or limit any of the terms or provisions hereof.
- J. A reference in this Addendum to a section in HIPAA means the section as in effect or as amended.
- K. Any ambiguity in this Addendum shall be interpreted to permit compliance with HIPAA.
- L. Business Associate will not use an agent or subcontractor without written agreement by Covered Entity.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto executed this Business Associate Addendum on the day and year first written above.

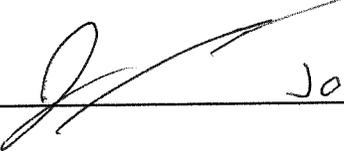
Orange County

By: _____
[County Manager name], Orange County Manager

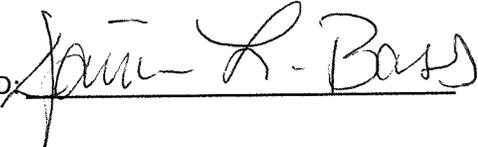
ATTESTED: _____

BUSINESS ASSOCIATE

Freedom House Recovery Center, Inc.

By:  _____
Joyce Harpe

Title: Chief Executive Officer

ATTESTED:  _____
James R. Bass

Orange County
Courthouse
106 East Margaret Lane
Hillsborough, NC 27278



Office: (919) 245-2304
Fax: (919) 640-1729
azirkel@orangecountync.gov

February 12, 2025

I am writing this letter to support Freedom House's application for renewed funding from opioid settlement funds so that ongoing collaboration with the Orange County Criminal Justice Resource Department and the Lantern Project may continue. Currently, two positions at Freedom House are funded: a full-time clinician position and a full-time peer support specialist position. Both positions have been critical in supporting court-involved individuals on their recovery journey.

The clinician's work in completing comprehensive clinical assessments has been extremely valuable in identifying clients' needs, clarifying diagnoses, and making treatment recommendations. The clinician has also recently implemented a new therapeutic support group called Seeking Safety, an evidence-based treatment modality for people with co-occurring substance use disorders and post-traumatic stress disorders. This group is specifically for Lantern Project clients. The peer support specialist work is also highly valued in providing recovery support to people who are incarcerated in the detention center as well as bridging them to longer-term supports in the community upon their release. The partnership between Freedom House and the CJRD is critical in supporting a continuum of care for court-involved people struggling with addiction.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allison Zirkel, LCSW, LCAS', is written over the typed name.

Allison Zirkel, LCSW, LCAS
Clinical Coordinator
Criminal Justice Resource Department
Office: 919-245-2304, Cell: 919-748-2196
azirkel@orangecountync.gov