

**Criterion 3b: “Well-planned activity that is likely to lead to the intended opioid-related impacts, based on the evidence base about strategy and/or activity effectiveness for the prioritized population.”**

The “priority population” as defined for this purpose:

- **Selective and indicated populations ( IOM terminology, for an explanation see \* below) at high risk for opioid abuse, or already manifesting signs and symptoms of abuse**
- **Populations actively misusing opioids, for whom drug treatment, with or without short term or extended MAT, is appropriate**
- **Harm reduction supplies and approaches, including naloxone distribution**
- **Users in recovery seeking ongoing support**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Total Score</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Program Proposed</b>	<b>Application Review Notes</b>	<b>OAC Decision</b>
<b>Piedmont Health</b>	<b>75</b>	Evidence-based addiction treatment	<b>\$50,400</b>	<b>Project will serve patients who receive MOUD at Carrboro and Chapel Hill Community Health Centers.</b> Services are provided at no cost. MOUD program provides support in managing cravings, reducing withdrawal symptoms and preventing relapse into active addiction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOUD will be provided at no cost to patients. The funding will support patients without insurance/underinsured</li> <li>• Patients who visit the MOUD program are able to have a “one stop shop” for all needs related to MOUD, as well as medical, dental, behavioral health, nutrition, and other specialists.</li> </ul>	<b>Funding recommendation for \$50,400.</b>
<b>El Futuro</b>	<b>70</b>	Early Intervention	\$74,115.29	El Futuro proposes to enhance early identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substance use is underreported in Latino</li> </ul>	<b>Funding recommendation for \$50,000.</b>

			<p>and prevention of SUD among historically marginalized Latino youth and young adults in Orange County.</p> <p>This initiative will train CMHWs in SBIRT and Motivational Interviewing (MI) to strengthen early intervention efforts and expand access to culturally and linguistically appropriate services.</p> <p>Developing and distributing Spanish-language educational materials and conducting bilingual workshops, social media campaigns, and youth-focused community engagement that increases knowledge of opioid risks, improves awareness of behavioral health services, and ensures targeted populations receive accurate, stigma-free information and access to early intervention services.</p>	<p>populations due to fear and lack of culturally competent services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There are limited Spanish-language behavioral health services in Orange County.</li><li>• The Early Intervention Program will address health inequities for Latino young adults and parents/caregivers in Orange County, who face language barriers, stigma, and a lack of culturally competent providers, delaying care and increasing reliance on costly emergency services.</li></ul>	
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Freedom House	66	Criminal Justice Diversion Program	\$144, 926.10	<p>Freedom House connects with individuals screened in the Orange County Detention Center who have a history of Opioid Use Disorder. The licensed clinician conducts a comprehensive clinical assessment to ascertain the best treatment options for the individual prior to or upon release from incarceration.</p> <p>The Peer Support Specialist assists individuals with getting to treatment, court appearances, linkage to community resources and other needs to curb recidivism.</p> <p>Funds would cover salary/benefits, cell phone service, mileage and training for a Licensed Clinician and a Peer Support Specialist.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the Organizational Readiness section, there was no information concerning skills and capacity needed to manage the funding award and meet reporting and compliance requirements.</li> <li>• In Performance Measures and Program Evaluation, applicant did not include key Lantern Project Metrics.</li> <li>• Budget worksheet only includes information for one year.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Funding recommendation for \$72,000</b> or equal to the cost of the salary and fringe of a peer support specialist in the jail.</p> <p>There were noted concerns about funding the clinician as requested due to Freedom House’s inability to provide consistent service with Opioid Settlement funds granted 2023-2025.</p>
UNC SHAC	64	Syringe Support Program	\$196,047.00	Harm reduction-based organization providing sterile injection supplies, naloxone, first aid supplies, fentanyl and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With prior settlement opioid funding, program was expanded, and numbers of syringes and</li> </ul>	<p><b>Funding recommendation for \$37,600.</b></p>

				<p>xylazine test strips and referrals to other social and health services to PWUD in Orange County.</p> <p>Seeking funds for SSP supplies, educational materials, marketing, travel, and continued funding for paid Program Navigator position.</p> <p>New initiatives to be included in funding request: Open new SHAC SSP location to increase SSP access; Initiate SHAC SSP material distribution within the UNC ED; Establish Emergency Use Naloxone Boxes; Improve and streamline referrals; Engage with and compensate SSP participants for their feedback to improve services and disseminate program's work and continue building collaborations through educational conferences.</p>	<p>naloxone provided was doubled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applying with UNC Injury Prevention Research Center who will administer the award, including overseeing the financial, personnel, and compliance aspects (Currently administers Opioid settlement funds)</li> <li>• Supply distribution is in collaboration with Inter-faith council for Social Service and University United Methodist Church; storing with Hillsborough Pharmacy</li> <li>• Fully funded by OAC; no other funders; staffed by student volunteers if no funds available</li> </ul>	
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RSN	61	Early Intervention	\$40,000	<p>Programming will be enhanced by integrating harm reduction principles and providing overdose prevention training to staff and mentors in addition to continuing to implement Family Resilience framework. <b>Seven mentors will be onboarded and trained to engage 18 at risk youth or youth engaged in substance use.</b></p> <p>Funding is being requested to support mentors as independent contractors, providing mentors with training and professional development opportunities in healthcare and recovery field.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of Need: Orange County data reports that 49% of youth struggle with substance use and 33% with mental health issues, yet only 2-14% receive treatment (NC DJJ, 2024).</li> <li>• RSN directly addresses health inequities by serving youth disproportionately impacted by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- systemic barriers to mental health and substance use treatment, particularly youth of color and</li> <li>- those involved in the juvenile justice system.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Program staff have lived experience in navigating</li> </ul>	<p><b>Funding recommendation for \$20,000.</b></p> <p>OAC would like to see more impact on community rather than staff training/development in programming.</p>
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					<p>various systems as it relates to substance use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Program has continued sources of funding from numerous agencies in Orange County.</li><li>• Program aligns with priority areas of Community Health Assessment: Program specifically targets disparities in access to care by offering free services and online resources for uninsured/underinsured families. Expands services to rural areas; supports transportation and access to resources.</li></ul> <p>Application Needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No letters of Support</li></ul>	
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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project Description and Sustainability section did not include plans to incorporate feedback from program participants to inform program delivery.</li><li>• Performance measures and Program evaluation section:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- No clear and appropriate plans to capture client data.</li><li>- How will data on the key goals be captured?</li></ul></li></ul>	
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<p><b>Oxford House</b></p>	<p>60</p>	<p>Recovery Support Services</p>	<p>\$40,000</p>	<p>Goal of proposal is to improve resident outcomes and housing stability, enhancing recovery outcome for residents via the Peer Advocate Program.</p> <p>Funding will cover boarding, supplies, and program overhead costs of (4) Oxford House residents or alumni serving as the Peer Advocates.</p> <p>The advocates will provide peer mentoring and access to community-based recovery support services to individuals living in Oxford House, helping them navigate early recovery challenges and integrate into the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxford house has managed federal, state, and private grants for 34 years.</li> <li>• Budget worksheet did not include information for three years.</li> <li>• Budget does not include money for the Peer Advocates.</li> <li>• Project Description and Program Sustainability section says that if funded, Opioid settlement Funds would be sole funding source for Peer Advocate Program.</li> <li>• \$600 per month (12 months) for each Peer Advocate for lodging (see operating expenses page of budget) What if Peer advocate is alumni?</li> </ul>	<p><b>While the application does meet the priority population criteria for funding, Oxford House is historically known to be a \$33 million program that often seeks funding from other programs to cover board payments for its residents. There are also concerns related to the program being abstinence based.</b></p>
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<p><b>Grow Your World</b></p>	<p>60</p>	<p>Early Intervention</p>	<p>\$132,035.35</p>	<p>After school mentorship and Opioid prevention education; expanding transportation access</p> <p>Engaging youth with interactive tools (ie, claw machine)</p> <p>Strengthening partnerships with schools and community organizations to build sustainable intervention pipelines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although proposed and existing programs imply an understanding of issues that affect people who use drugs, there is no information included within the Organizational readiness section specifically addressing this criteria.</li> <li>• Established partners- Boomerang Youth/Alliance. Cited extensive experience working with justice involved youth.</li> <li>• Demonstrates strong support with included letters and collaboration.</li> <li>• Idea of youth led evaluation panels good idea if under supervision- defined measures may be questionable.</li> <li>• Project sustainability seems to be planned out.</li> <li>• Have received funding from other sources to include OAC in</li> </ul>	<p><b>Application does not meet priority population criteria for funding.</b></p>
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					2023-2024 and Town of Carrboro.	
<b>Carpe Diem</b>	60	Criminal Justice Diversion Program	\$25,000	<p>Pre and Post diversion program for college students</p> <p>Includes a 15-hour group that takes place over 4-5 weeks.</p> <p>Uses motivational, non-judgmental approach and focuses on alcohol and drug education, harm reduction strategies, legal issues and self-care.</p> <p>Local partners send speakers to speak with group.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Organizational Readiness section, did not have information on serving those experiencing homelessness and housing instability, BIPOC, federal or NC recognized tribal communities, and/or those transitioning from correctional settings to the community.</li> </ul>	<b>Application does not meet priority population criteria for funding.</b>
<b>UNC Student Wellness</b>	60	Naloxone Distribution	\$114,906.24	Funding is requested for naloxone cartons, naloxone kits, and ONEboxes to expand campus overdose	Funding for the resources will expire at the end of the fiscal year, creating a gap in access to no cost naloxone kits, fentanyl and xylazine strips, educational materials and	<b>While the application does meet the priority population criteria for funding, the committee feels strongly that</b>

				<p>prevention efforts. This funding ensures first responders and the campus community have immediate access to lifesaving resources.</p> <p>ONEbox installation at AED stations and other strategic distribution points in high traffic areas such as campus libraries, student recreation centers, and Student Union)</p> <p>Build on existing harm reduction infrastructure through integration with current campus pharmacy distribution, supplying UNC police naloxone cartons and peer program expansion</p>	<p>DisposeRx drug deactivation packets.</p> <p>There is an unreported overdose crisis affecting the campus community. Performance measures and evaluation methods could provide data needed to gain more support from the university.</p> <p>At the recommendation of the OAC, the applicant formed a coalition to address the silos on campus working to address substance/opioid use on campus. The coalition has engaged various campus and county stakeholders to include OCHD reps, the Sheriff and EMS. The applicant has attended numerous meetings and assisted with community gatherings related to OUD.</p> <p>Applicant staff leaders have lived experience and encourage students in recovery to lead program efforts.</p> <p>Location of some of the harm reduction distribution points will be in central locations to community members as well; easily</p>	<p><b>Student Wellness should seek support from the University.</b></p> <p>It was also noted that UNC First Responders are encouraged to reach out to County Emergency Services for needed supplies.</p> <p>OAC is recommending that SHAC, a recommended agency to be funded, work with this group to supply harm reduction supplies to students in need and collaborate to prevent silos in efforts.</p>
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					<p>accessible to those without transportation.</p> <p>Documented evidence of other states that have used their funding to support students on college campuses.</p> <p>In the Need assessment section, should have been more detailed and information on geography and priority populations.</p> <p>In Organizational Readiness section, gave information on skills and capacity needed to manage the funding award and meet reporting and compliance requirements, as well as interdisciplinary collaborations already established that will enhance success of the project. The other criteria were not addressed in this section.</p> <p>Only 1 ½ paragraphs were provided out of a possible 3 pages.</p>	
<b>High Impact Opioid Abatement</b>	51	Collaborative Strategic Planning	\$44,076	Research project looking to explore the use and effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is a research project.</li> <li>• Longevity of proposed project.</li> </ul>	<b>Application does not meet priority population criteria for funding.</b>

<b>(UNC Research Project)</b>				of prehospital OUD prevention, treatment and harm reduction strategies (survey of EMD directors); enumerate missed opportunities for prehospital intervention in local opioid – related deaths. (Enumerate decedent and EMS data from 1/1/24 to 12/31/24) and determine Stakeholder support of prehospital OUD strategy implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will the project continue after funding for project is over?</li> <li>• Have support of OC EMS (Joseph Grover) and PORT Team (Landon)</li> </ul>	
<b>Hillsborough Treatment Center</b>	47.5	Recovery Support Services	\$200,000	<p>Proposal to provide wrap around services to support individuals undergoing treatment for OUD and SUD, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Peer Support Specialists</li> <li>- Transportation</li> <li>- Housing assistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For Profit</li> <li>• In Assessment of Community Need section, there does not seem to be a clear statement of needs and gaps in services.</li> <li>• Equity Impact section does not go into depth as to what steps the project will take to reach, benefit and equitably engage</li> </ul>	<p><b>While the application does meet the priority population criteria for funding, it is a for-profit agency. Limited county funds are likely better used by other community partners.</b></p>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Employment coaching</li> <li>- Legal aid</li> <li>- Educational opportunities</li> </ul> <p>Expansion of MAT services</p>	<p>historically marginalized populations and uninsured and underinsured.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No letters of support</li> <li>• In evidence of Collaborations/Partnership section, no clear plan to verify that projects or services are not being duplicated in the community and with the population served</li> <li>• In Budget, amount requesting for Peer Support Specialist is included in narrative, but not in expenses on overall program budget page.</li> </ul>	
<b>Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)</b>	45	Early Intervention	\$600,000	Educate high school and college students about the importance of securing medications, including increased awareness of medication misuse and its consequences, as well as awareness of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently has NC staff member dedicated to traffic safety related prevention programming.</li> <li>• Will students who do not receive LPV still be able to participate in survey and receive educational materials?</li> </ul>	<b>Application does not meet priority population criteria for funding.</b>

				<p>campus and community resources for substance misuse and mental health. In doing so, SADD will distribute a specific number of locking pill vials (LPVs) on campuses across the county in conjunction with hosting informational sessions on LPV and prescription and other drug misuse or incorporating them into other events where vials are distributed alongside educational materials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has completed application seeking a three-year commitment (Project Description and Sustainability) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Their ask is for the full \$200,000 this year and the next 2 years.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Organizational Readiness section does not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Address skills and capacity needed to manage funding award and meet reporting and compliance requirements.</li> <li>- Demonstrate the capacity to conduct culturally humble, sensitive, and appropriate work</li> <li>- Demonstrate experience serving people experiencing homelessness and housing instability, BIPOC, and/or those transitioning from correctional settings to the community.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Evidence of Collaboration/Partnership</li> </ul>	
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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Does not include clear plan to verify that products/services are not being duplicated in the community and with the population served.</li> <li>• Performance Measures and Program Evaluation section does not describe clear and appropriate plans to engage priority population in evaluation design and implementation.</li> </ul>	
<b>CEC Analytics</b>	43	Collaborative Strategic Planning	\$35,233.40	<p>Proposes Wastewater Monitoring Program for Substance of Potential Abuse</p> <p>Laboratory analysis for Fentanyl and other opioids and substances of concern in OC wastewater. (Hillsborough Wastewater Treatment Plant)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For Profit</li> <li>• Project Description and Program Sustainability section, discusses having been in contact with staff at Wastewater Treatment Plant concerning project, however, when requesting an MOU from Deputy Utilities Director – Water Treatment, the MOU was prewritten, with no prior contact or input</li> <li>• In Project Description and Sustainability, not sure who they consider priority</li> </ul>	<b>Application does not meet priority population criteria for funding.</b>

					population to be (Treatment plant vs OC residents) and how they plan to engage in project if it is OC residents.	
Fathers on the Move	33.5	Reentry Support	\$20,000	<p>Program serves people both pre and post release from the criminal justice system. The program addresses facets of reintegration into mainstream society and cultivates leadership skills, empowering individuals to become certified mentors.</p> <p>Proposal hoped to fund two mentors, the certification curriculum and costs associated with needs of the mentors to do the work (laptop, printer).</p>	<p>Provided 2 responses for proposal Summary; upon questioning – requested us to consider the first response.</p> <p>Performance Measures and Program Evaluation section does not include any metrics that will be measured.</p> <p>Organizational readiness section provided more of job descriptions of positions involved as opposed to ability to manage funding award.</p>	<p><b>While the application does meet the priority population criteria for funding, there are concerns about how much work is done in Orange County.</b></p>