Opioid Settlement Funding

Presented by

HHS Board

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Victoria Reichard, Behavioral Health Manager

National Opioid Settlements



WAVE 1

A **$26 billion** settlement agreement with McKesson, Cardinal Health, AmerisourceBergen, and Janssen Pharmaceuticals in early 2022. North Carolina's share to be **$757+ million.**

WAVE 2

A **$21 billion** settlement agreement with CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Allergan, and Teva in later 2022. North Carolina's share to be **$600+ million.**

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Currently scheduled to receive over **$30 million** through 2038, estimating an additional $4 million from Purdue.

From FY23 – FY25 Buncombe has received over **$9 million** and has spent over **$5.6 million**.

PURDUE

A **$7.4 billion** settlement agreement with Purdue Pharma & Sackler family in 2025. North Carolina's share to be **$150 million.**

2024-2026 Strategic Planning Overview

Buncombe County is a community where substance use recovery is characterized by timely and coordinated holistic care centered in empathy, cultural responsiveness, and evidence-based methods from prevention to long-term recovery.

Planning Process (Sept 2022 – May 2023)

- Conducted environmental scan, root cause analysis, and development of shared long-term vision
- Engaged diverse stakeholders (31 stakeholder sessions; 1,100+ survey respondents with 43% from those with lived experience
- Integrated quantitative data, qualitative lived-experience insights, and community feedback into recommendations

Key Findings

- Urgent need for coordinated, timely care, life-saving responses
- Importance of culturally responsive & compassionate approaches
- Strong desire for prevention-to-recovery continuum

Strategic Priorities

1. **Improve Coordination, Data, & Systems Capacity**
2. **Expand Access to Evidence-Based Treatment**
3. **Strengthen Recovery Supports & Harm Reduction**
4. **Address Root Causes Through Social Determinants of Health**

Funding History

1. Treatment & Clinical Services

- Expanded MOUD access through EMS-initiated buprenorphine and tele-health OBOT.
- Improved coordination for justice-involved individuals pre- and post-release.

2. Recovery Support & Case Navigation

- PORT: Rapid response, harm reduction, and treatment linkage.
- Reentry: Case management, benefits/housing navigation, and recovery supports.
- Peer Support Specialists across programs.

3. Harm Reduction & Overdose Prevention

- Naloxone and test strip distribution; overdose-prevention trainings.
- Expanded safer-use supplies and syringe disposal access.

4. Housing & Stability Supports

- Rental, utility, deposit, and application-fee assistance.
- Housing retention and diversion through Reentry & PORT.

5. Employment & Economic Stability

- Transportation, work-related needs, and job readiness supports.

6. Community Education

- Community prevention training.
- Public awareness and stigma-reduction efforts.

Understanding Impact

Key Indicators identified through 2024-2026 Strategic Planning Process	
Indicator	**Measure(s)**
Overdose deaths	# of people who died of an overdose in Buncombe County
Overdose-related Emergency Department visits	# of emergency department visits for known or suspected overdose in Buncombe County
Families involved with Child Protective Services (CPS) due to cooccurring substance use and child maltreatment	# of children entering foster care related to parental substance use disorder
Criminal justice data related to substance use and/or distribution	# Drug-related arrests
Social Determinants of Health indicators associated with substance use	For Example: • % of Buncombe County population living below poverty level • Point-in-time data re. people leaving unsheltered

Trends Shaping Community Well-Being

Trend Data from FY2024-2026 Strategic Plan Key Indicators					
	Overdose Deaths	**Overdose ED Visits**	**Co-Occurring SUD CPS Custody Cases***	**Drug-Related Arrests**	**Point-In-Time Count**
2021	122	394	103	729	116
2022	151 ↓	376 ↓	69 ↓	519 ↓	230 ↑
2023	152 ↑	503 ↑	90 ↑	617 ↑	171 ↓
2024	103 ↓	337 ↓	78 ↓	*653* ↑	219 ↑
2025	*64 Projected* ↓	*258* ↓	38 ↓	*Data pending*	328 ↑

*Data reported by fiscal year

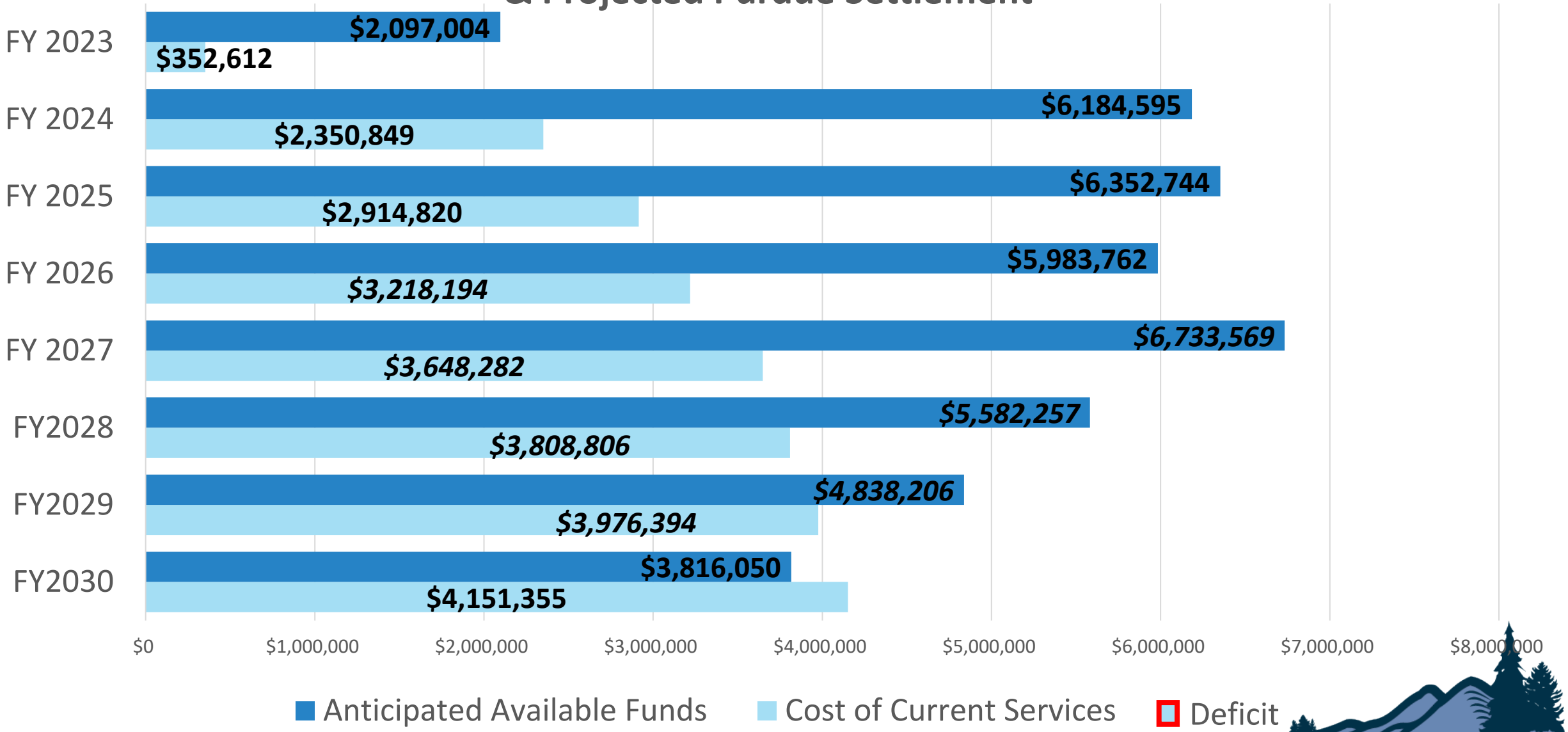
Reporting Period	Poverty Level
2017-2021	10.9%
2018-2022	11.2% ↑
2019-2023	11.8% ↑

FY27 Opioid Settlement Budget

Maintain Current Support Services

Cost Center	Positions/Programs	Amount
Behavioral Health	Behavioral Health Manager	$165,521
	Education Materials/Advertising/Events	$30,000
Emergency Services	Community Paramedicine PORT	$1,894,264
Public Health	Harm Reduction Coordinator	$134,644
	Naloxone Distribution	$75,000
	Harm Reduction Program Contract & Operating	$396,966
Justice Services	Community Re-entry Team Contract	$315,856
	Social Determinants of Health Funds – JRC & Reentry	$135,000
Access and Human Rights	Inclusive Connection & Healing Coordinator	$130,300
Social Services	Residential Support for Mothers with SUD involved in Child Welfare	$370,731
	Total	$3,648,282

Opioid Settlement Funds: Allocations for Currently-Funded Services
& Projected Purdue Settlement



Looking Ahead: Updating the Strategic Plan

Why Update Now

- Ensure the plan reflects current trends, needs, and opportunities
- Recognize and build on the work of partners and community members

Community Engagement Focus

- Refresh materials to track shifts in community perspectives
- Combine a general survey with targeted outreach to:
  - Stakeholder organizations
  - Lived experience voices
  - County program participants
  - 2024-26 engagement networks
  - General Public

Projected Timeline

- **April-May:**
  Planning engagement strategy
- **June-Early July:**
  Meetings & survey distribution
- **Late Aug-Early Sept:**
  Release plan updates

Survey Open through July 10th

Opioid Settlement Fund Plan Survey

Share your thoughts on how Buncombe County should use future Opioid Settlement Funds.

Scan the QR code or go to engage.buncombecounty.org/opioidsettlementplansurvey2026



Hope & Healing
Closer Than You Think

Encuestas del Fondo de Compensación por Opioides

Comparta sus ideas sobre los usos de los futuros fondos de compensación por opioides del Condado de Buncombe.

Escanee el código QR o visite engage.buncombecounty.org/encuestaconciliacionopioides



Esperanza y Sanación
están más cerca de lo que piensas

Questions/Discussion

Please reach out to Victoria Reichard at Victoria.Reichard@buncombenc.gov for any further questions.