



Budget 101

State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee

Wednesday, October 8, 2025



General Outline



Intro to OSBM



About the Budget



The Base Budget



Change Budget Development Process



Budget Certification



Revising the Budget



Intro to OSBM

About the Budget

The Base Budget

Change Budget Development Process

Budget Certification

Revising the Budget

Your Budget



Intro to OSBM: Major Functions

- Provide non-partisan fiscal advice to the Governor
- Develop the Governor's recommended budget and execute the appropriations act
- Publish the State Budget Manual to summarize the State Budget Act and policies on budget preparation, administration, travel, and more
- Forecast and monitor state revenues
- Produce official population estimates for state, counties, municipalities
- Collaborate with the Fiscal Research Division of the NCGA, by sharing documentation of agency budget requests





Intro to OSBM: Budget Staff Roles

OSBM budget staff work on either **budget development** or **budget execution**

Budget Development

- Develops the Governor's Budget consistent with the Governor's priorities
- Certifies the budget enacted by the General Assembly
- Assists agencies with strategic planning and performance management

Budget Execution

- Develops Base Budget
- Executes the budget enacted by the General Assembly as interpreted by the Governor, and in compliance with State law
 - Monitors revenue and spending and revises the budget as authorized by law
 - Interprets legislation and other governing language; develops and issues budget policies and procedures
- Conducts year-end carry-forward and closeout process



Intro to OSBM

About the Budget

The Base Budget

Change Budget Development Process

Budget Certification

Revising the Budget

Your Budget



About the Budget

Article III, Section 5 of NC Constitution

The Governor shall recommend a comprehensive budget of anticipated revenues and proposed expenditures and administer the budget enacted by the General Assembly.

State Budget Act (GS 143C)

The Governor is Director of the budget but may delegate authority; The budget must clearly distinguish program base budget, reductions, eliminations, expansions, and new programs; Only certain budget adjustments are allowed.

Budget Manual

Provides interpretations of statutes and guidance on budget execution, budget development, and fiscal policies including travel; Also provides links to Constitution, statutes, budget instructions, and budget glossary.



About the Budget: Common Terms

- North Carolina creates a **biennial** appropriations act in the long session that lasts for two years, starting with July 1 of each odd-numbered year.
- Each agency has a **General Fund Budget Code**, supported from state General Fund revenue and some receipts.
- Agencies may also have established “**Special Revenue**” **Fund Codes** which, are non-General Fund codes supported by the proceeds of specific revenue sources (such as settlement funds, fee revenue, etc.) and are legally restricted for specific purposes or services performed by the agency.
 - i.e., Opioid Abatement Fund, etc.



What is "The Budget"?

Base Budget

Governor's Budget Recommendations for FY 2023-25

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
Base Budget	27,532,739,359	27,549,282,413
Comprehensive Remedial Plan Years 2 and 3 Baseline	459,196,777	459,196,777
Total Recommended Starting Budget	27,991,936,136	28,008,479,190
Compensation		
State Health Plan Premiums - 5% Trend	120,580,000	279,290,000
Retirement System Contributions	41,400,000	81,400,000
Teacher Compensation - 10% year 1; 6% year 2; \$46k starting salary year 2	605,106,000	1,047,605,000
State Agency Teachers - 10% year 1; 6% year 2; \$46k starting salary year 2	2,565,000	4,117,000
Teacher Compensation - Masters Pay	10,000,000	10,000,000
School-based Administrator Pay - 10% year 1; 6% year 2	43,727,000	71,714,000
Other School Personnel - 6.5% year 1; 3% year 2	99,002,000	147,666,000
State-Funded Employees COLA - 5% year 1; 3% year 2	416,451,000	679,439,000
Receipt-Supported COLA Reserve - 5% year 1; 3% year 2	36,557,000	59,584,000
All General Fund Employees - 3% LMAR - year 1	250,903,000	250,903,000
Additional Increase for Step Plan Employees - 1.5% additional COLA - year 1	18,427,000	18,427,000
Bonus Reserve - \$1,500/employee <\$75K; \$1k /employee >\$75k	463,511,000	0
Retiree COLA - 2% R, 2% NR year 1, 1% NR year 2	200,772,000	147,306,000
Total Compensation	2,309,001,000	2,797,451,000
Investments		
K-12 Enrollment	30,100,000	60,200,000
Higher Education Enrollment	(912,711)	20,801,267
Comprehensive Remedial Plan Years 4 and 5	958,458,906	1,939,855,735
Receipts to Support Comprehensive Remedial Plan	(152,000,000)	(510,200,000)
Additional Support for K-12 Education	69,087,053	46,484,263
Higher Education	182,218,967	100,053,727
Medicaid Rebase	737,084,139	913,574,696
Disability - Community Based Services	32,205,000	100,410,000
Child Care Stabilization Grants	200,000,000	300,000,000
All other HHS Investments	187,027,622	279,111,625
Cybersecurity Needs	68,978,258	30,117,758
Conservation Investments	114,599,586	14,099,586
All Other Investments	222,252,251	133,317,718
Total Programmatic Investments	2,649,099,071	3,427,826,375
Total Recommended Adjustments	4,958,100,071	6,225,277,375
Total Recommended Appropriations	32,950,036,207	34,233,756,565
Balance	1,015,671,341	10,940,725

Budget Bill

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2023

SESSION LAW 2023-134 HOUSE BILL 259

AN ACT TO MAKE BASE BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT OPERATIONS OF STATE AGENCIES, DEPARTMENTS, AND INSTITUTIONS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

PART I. TITLE AND INTRODUCTION

TITLE OF ACT

SECTION 1.1. This act shall be known as the "Current Operations Appropriations Act of 2023."

INTRODUCTION

SECTION 1.2. The appropriations made in this act are for maximum amounts necessary to provide the services and accomplish the purposes described in the budget in accordance with the State Budget Act. Savings shall be effected where the total amounts appropriated are not required to perform these services and accomplish these purposes, and the savings shall revert to the appropriate fund at the end of each fiscal year, except as otherwise provided by law.

PART II. CURRENT OPERATIONS AND EXPANSION/GENERAL FUND

GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS

SECTION 2.1.(a) Appropriations from the General Fund for the budgets of the State departments, institutions, and agencies, and for other purposes as enumerated, are made for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, according to the following schedule:

Current Operations - General Fund	FY 2023-2024	FY 2024-2025
EDUCATION		
North Carolina Community College System		
Requirements	1,877,925,960	1,902,511,556
Less: Receipts	403,685,353	388,408,799
Net Appropriation	1,474,240,607	1,514,102,757
Department of Public Instruction		
Requirements	13,492,320,541	13,699,714,749
Less: Receipts	1,927,760,615	1,750,698,621
Net Appropriation	11,564,559,926	11,949,016,128

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

East Carolina Univ. - Academic Affairs		
Requirements	431,788,788	432,957,458



Committee Report

North Carolina General Assembly

Joint Conference Committee Report on the Current Operations Appropriations Act of 2023

House Bill 259

September 20, 2023



The Committee Report

The Joint Conference Committee Report:

- Includes the Base, Change, and Capital Budgets
- Identifies individual spending priorities described in a title and short “snappies”
- Specifies:
 - Expenditure amount
 - Recurring vs. Non-recurring
 - Source of funds
 - Number of new FTE (if any)

1 Compensation Increase Reserve Provides funding for an across-the-board salary increase of 2.5% in FY 2021-22, and an additional across-the-board salary increase of 2.5% in FY 2022-23.	Requirements	\$ 625,356R	\$ 1,250,712R
	Less: Receipts	\$ -	\$ -
	Net Appropriation	\$ 625,356	\$ 1,250,712
	FTE	-	-
2 State Retirement Contributions Increases the State's contribution for members of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS) supported by the General Fund to fund the actuarially determined contribution and retiree medical premiums, and to provide one-time cost-of-living supplements to retirees of 2% in FY 2021-22 and 3% in FY 2022-23.	Requirements	\$ 110,246R 123,785NR	\$ 243,702R 179,875NR
	Less: Receipts	\$ -	\$ -
	Net Appropriation	\$ 234,031	\$ 423,577
	FTE	-	-
22 State Construction Office Staff Increase Fund Code: 1411 Provides funds from the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund (SCIF) for new positions and salary adjustment for existing positions.	Requirements	\$ 1,000,000R	\$ 1,000,000R
	Less: Receipts	\$ 1,000,000R	\$ 1,000,000R
	Net Appropriation	\$ -	\$ -
	FTE	-	-
25 Contract Monitoring Positions Fund Code: 1511 Provides funds for Contract Specialist positions.	Requirements	\$ 186,120R	\$ 186,120R
	Less: Receipts	\$ -	\$ -
	Net Appropriation	\$ 186,120	\$ 186,120
	FTE	2.000	2.000



The Budget Bill: Special Provisions

- Amend statute or session law to:
 - Add definitions, make technical changes, make policy changes, repeal, etc.
 - Notwithstanding existing statute to allow certain actions
- Add clarity and parameters to a program that may not be apparent in the Committee Report
- Create new or pilot programs, reporting and study requirements

USE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

SECTION 9F.1. Section 9F.1 of S.L. 2021-180 reads as rewritten:

"SECTION 9F.1.(a) The Opioid Abatement Reserve (Reserve) is established in the General Fund to maintain (i) funds received by the State as a beneficiary of the final consent judgment resolving the case, *State of North Carolina, ex rel. Joshua H. Stein, Plaintiff v. McKinsey and Company, Inc.*, in the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division, Wake County and County, (ii) any other funds received by the State as a result of a settlement, as defined in G.S. 114-2.4A, relating to claims regarding the manufacturing, marketing, distribution, dispensing, or sale of ~~opioids~~ opioids, and (iii) funds received by the State as a beneficiary of a confirmation order by a bankruptcy court relating to claims regarding the manufacturing, marketing, distribution, dispensing, or sale of opioids.

JUSTICE-RELATED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

SECTION 9G.2B.(a) Of the funds appropriated in this act from the ARPA Temporary Savings Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services, the sum of twenty-nine million dollars (\$29,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the sum of seventy million dollars (\$70,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year shall be used for either or both of the following programs:

- (1) Community-based pre-arrest diversion and reentry programs and to fund local partnerships between law enforcement, counties, and behavioral health providers.
- (2) Community-based and detention center-based restoration programs.



Intro to OSBM

About the Budget

The Base Budget

Change Budget Development Process

Budget Certification

Revising the Budget

Your Budget



Base Budget: Authority to Make Adjustments

The base budget provides funding necessary to continue the ***existing, authorized level of services for next biennium.***

- OSBM works with agencies to create the base budget by taking the existing authorized budget and making adjustments authorized by GS 143C-1-1(d)(1c).
- If a budget bill is not passed by June 30th of a given fiscal year, a continuing resolution authorizes agencies to continue operations at the current base budget appropriation levels.



Intro to OSBM

About the Budget

The Base Budget

Change Budget Development Process

Budget Certification

Revising the Budget

Your Budget



Budget Development Process

Long Session

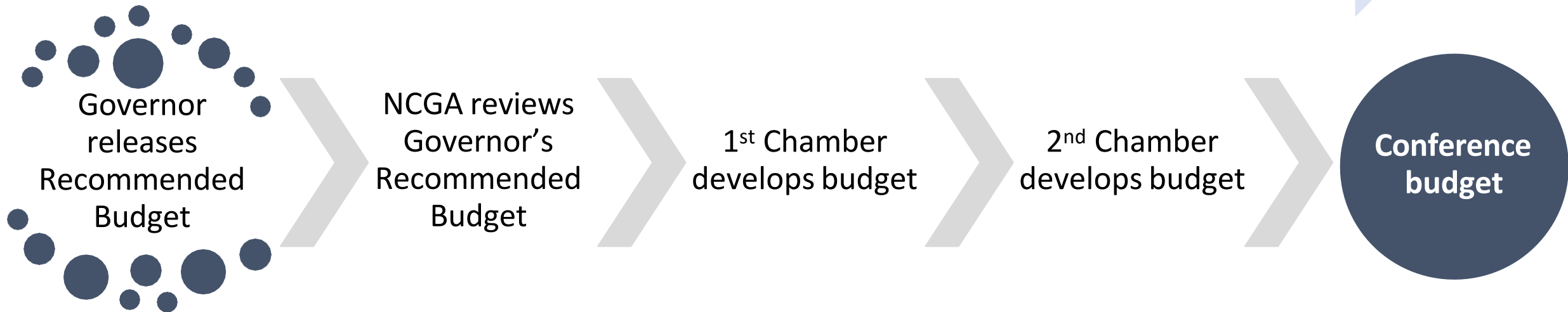
Early March

April

Early May

Early June

Before July 1



Short Session

Early May

May

Late May/June

June

Before July 1



What items does OSBM consider when developing the budget?



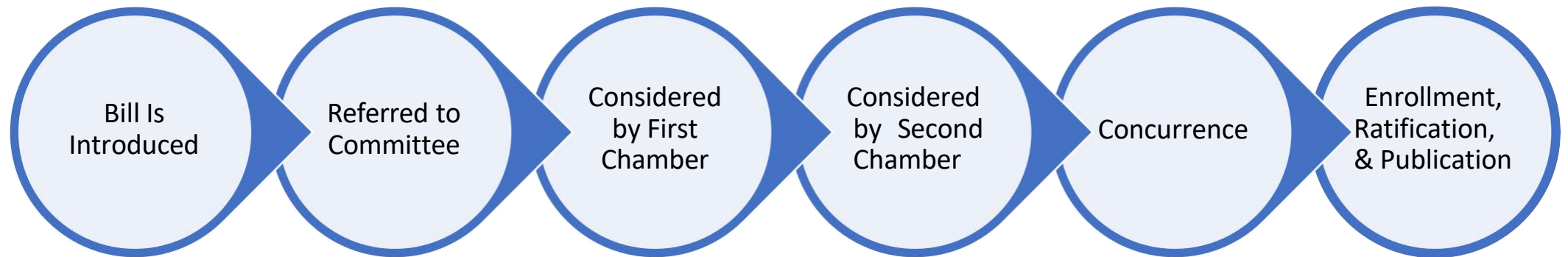


How Does OSBM Evaluate Agency Budget Requests?

1. Strength of business case, including details on:
 - The need
 - How the request will address the need
 - Why the agency believes the request will address the need
 - Expected impact
2. Use of evidence
 - How likely will the program or service achieve expected outputs/outcomes? Why?
 - How will agencies collect and measure program data? How does this request support data collection and analysis?
3. Clear agency strategic plan alignment



Process of a Bill



What is the role of the Governor's Recommended Budget in the process of a bill?

The Governor's Recommended Budget is a proposal for an appropriations bill for the entire state budget. A member of the NCGA will file and introduce it.

<https://www.ncleg.gov/About/EducationalResources>



Intro to OSBM

About the Budget

The Base Budget

Change Budget Development Process

Budget Certification

Revising the Budget

Your Budget



Budget Certification –What is it?

- Ensures the funds appropriated by the General Assembly reflect the purpose for which they were appropriated.
- Sets up the budget as of **July 1** in all of North Carolina's financial systems.

Agencies may not spend money appropriated in the budget until the budget is certified.



Budget Certification –Why does OSBM Certify the Budget?

G.S. 143C-6-1(c)

Certification of the Budget. - The Director of the Budget shall certify to each State agency the amount appropriated to it for each program and each object from all funds included in the budget as defined in G.S. 143C-3-5(d). The certified budget for each State agency shall reflect the total of all appropriations enacted for each State agency by the General Assembly in the Current Operations Appropriations Act and any other act affecting the State budget. The certified budget for each State agency shall follow the format of the Budget Support Document as modified to reflect changes enacted by the General Assembly.

G.S. 143C1-1(d)(7)

Certified budget. - The budget as enacted by the General Assembly including adjustments made for (i) distributions to State agencies from statewide reserves appropriated by the General Assembly, (ii) distributions of reserves appropriated to a specific agency by the General Assembly, and (iii) organizational or budget changes mandated by the General Assembly.



Intro to OSBM

About the Budget

The Base Budget

Change Budget Development Process

Budget Certification

Revising the Budget

Your Budget



Revising the Budget



The **certified budget** represents the budget the General Assembly enacted/approved.



The **authorized budget** is composed of the certified budget plus allowable budget revisions. This is the working budget.



The General Assembly has defined how the certified and authorized budget may be changed through **budget revisions**.



Revising the Budget

- Authority to revise the budget is defined in statute, session law, and clarified in the State Budget Manual
- Budget Adjustments
 - Some general flexibility to realign budget between non-personnel operating budget line items
- Position Actions
 - During the fiscal year, agencies can make certain changes *within their budget availability*. These include:
 - Salary adjustments (subject to available salary reserve)
 - Creation of new positions (subject to available salary reserve and GS 143C-6-6)
 - Lapsed salary accrued during the fiscal year may be used on non-recurring expenditures, subject to GS 143C-6-9



Resources

- [NC OSBM Budget 101](#)
- [FY 2025-27 Governors Recommended Budget](#)
 - [Past Governor's Budget Recommendations](#)
- [General Assembly Enacted Budget](#)
- [Agency Certified Budgets](#)
- [The State Budget Manual](#)

Questions?

tai.rochelle@osbm.nc.gov
melissa.roark@osbm.nc.gov



Website: www.osbm.nc.gov

Follow us:

 @NC Office of State Budget & Management

 @NCDemographer

 @NC Office of State Budget & Management

The Next Olmstead Plan

Oct. 7, 2025



Purpose

Why are we here?

- We're updating North Carolina's Olmstead Plan- the roadmap for ensuring that people with disabilities can live, work, and thrive in their communities.
- Your voice matters. This session helps identify where disability services are strong and where gaps still need to be addressed in the next plan.
- We will share about what an Olmstead plan is, North Carolina's work so far, and what we hope to learn from you to prepare for the next plan draft
- We will get your perspective on what is and is not working with disability services in North Carolina. That will help guide what goes in the next plan.

Where are we now?

What is Olmstead?

- The *Olmstead* case was brought in 1995 by two women with disabilities who had to live in a state psychiatric hospital because it was the only place they could get the services they needed.
- In response to their lawsuit, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that all states must do their best to provide “community-based” services so that people with disabilities can live wherever they want. This is often called “community integration.”
- Most states, including North Carolina, have an Olmstead Plan that explains how they intend to meet the needs of people with disabilities

Olmstead in North Carolina

- North Carolina has had an Olmstead Plan since *2021
- It was last updated in 2023
- All the state agencies that do disability services work report on progress quarterly

OPSA Vision Statement:

North Carolina champions the right of all people with disabilities to choose to live life fully included in the community

Foundational Principles

Proposed List of Foundational Principles

People with disabilities...

- Direct their own lives and receive person-centered supports that uphold autonomy, dignity, and well-being.
- Are included in community life— living, working, and participating fully according to their interests and choices.
- Access the right services at the right time, without delay or discrimination.
- Live in communities that are accessible, affordable, and equipped for full participation.

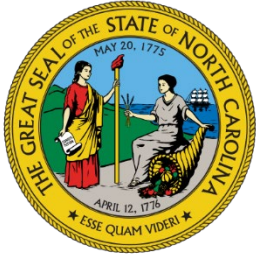
Systems that serve people with disabilities are...

- Coordinated, navigable, and responsive across life domains and stages.
- Equitable, accountable, and supportive of families and community caregivers.

Foundational Principles: Discussion

When you think about disability services in North Carolina....

- Do these feel relevant to you?
- Which one of these principles feels closest to reality today?
- Is there anything missing in these principles that is important to you?
- Which feels most ambitious?
- What would it take to get these to be true in NC?



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Mental Health,
Developmental Disabilities and
Substance Use Services

SCFAC Update

Kelly Crosbie, MSW, LCSW

Director

NC DHHS Division of Mental Health,
Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services

October 8, 2025

MH/SU/IDD/TBI System Announcements & Updates

In Support of Our Communities: Resources After the Southport Tragedy

In the wake of the recent tragedy in Southport, many across our communities may be experiencing pain and uncertainty. While words cannot undo what has happened, we can offer each other care, connection, and support.

Immediate Emotional Support – 24/7

- **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline:** Call or text 988 | Veterans: Press 1 | Spanish: Press 2 or text AYUDA | Chat: 988lifeline.org/chat
- **Peer Warmline:** 1-855-PEERS-NC (855-733-7762) – Talk with someone in recovery with lived experience
- **[SAMHSA Disaster Distress Helpline](https://www.samhsa.gov/2k20-disaster-distress-helpline):** 1-800-985-5990 (Press 2 for Spanish)

Helpful Resources

- [Mass Violence & Trauma Recovery](#) (SAMHSA)
- [Managing Stress for First Responders](#) (SAMHSA)
- [Age-Related Reactions to Trauma](#) (NCTSN)
- [Helping Children Cope After Disaster](#) (SAMHSA)
- Faith-Based Disaster Mental Health (NDIN – [English](#) / [Spanish](#))

DMH/DD/SUS stands with all those affected and remains committed to supporting healing and recovery across North Carolina.

Federal Update: Government Shutdown

A federal government shutdown has begun following Congress's inability to pass a budget or continuing resolution. While many of our operations continue, programs that rely primarily on federal funding may experience temporary disruptions.

What This Means for DMH/DD/SUS

- **Services Continue:** Programs remain uninterrupted for now.
- **No Immediate Furloughs:** No furloughs for DMHDDSUS employees. Other Divisions: No NCDHHS employees will be furloughed until at least **Wednesday, October 8**, as we continue to assess federal funding and cash flow.

Our Commitment

We are actively working to minimize disruption for staff, providers, and communities. Our priority remains maintaining services and supporting North Carolinians—especially those relying on mental health, developmental disability, and substance use supports.

We will share updates as more federal guidance is received.

As of 10/3

Grant Updates

State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant

Purpose of State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant

This grant provides additional funds to address the opioid crisis in North Carolina. It is from the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)**.

The grant is meant to:

- Increase access to medication-assisted treatment using the three FDA-approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder
- Reduce unmet treatment need
- Reduce opioid overdose-related deaths by providing prevention, treatment, and recovery services for opioid use disorder. Opioids include prescription opioids such as oxycodone, morphine and codeine, as well as other drugs such as heroin, fentanyl, carfentanil and other fentanyl analogs.

Populations Served:

Individuals with an opioid use disorder.

SOR Grant FY26 Programs

Grant plans:

- NOA has been received for Year 2 - \$36.6m
- Budget still in revision for compliance to new federal EOs
- Will continue to fund priorities such as low-barrier MOUD, overdose education and naloxone distribution, evidence-based prevention, recovery support services, peer work, and justice system specific programming

Populations Served:

Women; pregnant women; veterans; children and adolescents; transition-age youth and young adults; adults; individuals with an opioid use disorder

Supporting Transition Age Youth with Opioid Use Disorders



Prevent substance misuse and overdose

Award Recipients Announced

Two North Carolina community-based agencies have been selected to pilot evidence-based programs that expand access to treatment and recovery supports for **Transition Age Youth (TAY)** with opioid use disorders.

Awarded Organizations:

- [Kellin Foundation](#) – Greensboro
- [HIGHTS](#) – Cullowhee

Funded through the **State Opioid Response (SOR)** grant, this initiative focuses on youth ages 16–25; over **162,000** of whom are estimated to experience a substance use disorder in NC.

Program Goals:

- Expand access to **medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD)**
- Integrate **family-based treatment and education** to support youth in their homes
- Reduce need for **foster care, residential placement, or justice involvement**
- For older youth: address **housing, education, and employment** as part of recovery



Mental Health Block Grant

Purpose of Mental Health Block Grant

MHBG funds are intended to provide states with the flexibility to design and implement activities and services to address the complex needs of children, youth, adults, families and communities impacted by mental illness. The MHBG is also utilized to monitor progress in implementing a comprehensive, community based mental health system.

Populations Served (*these are quotes below*)

Adults with serious mental illnesses

Includes persons ages 18 and older who have a diagnosable behavioral, mental, or emotional condition that interferes with or limits their functional ability.

Children with serious emotional disturbances

Includes persons up to age 18 who have a diagnosable behavioral, mental, or emotional issue (as defined by the DSM) that interferes with or limits their functional ability.

Mental Health Block Grant

FY26 Proposed Budget (Current as of 9/9/25)

TIME FRAME: 07/01/25 – 06/30/26		
Category	FY26 Requested Amount	FY25 Requested Amount
First Episode Psychosis (10% Set-Aside)	\$4,338,196.25	\$7,033,125.00
Crisis (5% Set-Aside) * Includes BSCA	\$3,186,825.00	\$5,013,786.00
Adult / Child Treatment:	\$27,676,304.23	\$21,179,426.23
Non-UCR / UCR Continuation Allocations	\$4,819,000.00	\$5,831,283.00
Admin/ Positions / DCFW (Using FY25 Total)	\$5,386,350.00	\$5,386,350.00
TOTAL	\$45,406,675.48	\$44,443,970.23

Supplemental Funding to be Awarded

NC notified it will receive **\$566,329.00 in Supplemental Funding** to support initiatives addressing homelessness and serious mental illness (SMI) in FFY26

Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant

Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant

SAMHSA provides funding for prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery supports to individuals at risk for or with a substance use disorder. These funds are intended to provide states with the flexibility to design and implement activities and services to address the complex needs of individuals, families and communities impacted by substance use disorders and associated problems.

Program Areas

- **Prevention:** Supports direct prevention services for adults and youth to include education; needs assessment/planning/training to include college campuses; supports youth survey/dashboard
- **Treatment and Recovery:** Includes all substances (alcohol, cannabis, opioids, etc.), all ASAM levels of care, priority populations include pregnant and parenting women and individuals who use drugs intravenously, recovery supported housing, collegiate recovery programs, recovery community organizations and other peer supported/led services.

SUPTRS FY26: Proposed Budget: \$60,158,870

Time Frame: 07/01/25 – 06/30/26

Category	Budgeted
Prevention	\$13,351,864
IV Substance Use	\$2,000,000
Treatment for Children/Adults	\$40,038,949
Veterans Services	\$250,000
CSRS	\$675,000
State Level Administration	\$2,297,852
Recovery Services: Collegiate Recovery Programs, Recovery Community Organizations	\$1,545,205
Total	\$60,158,870

Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Supplemental Funding

SAMHSA awarded North Carolina \$990,865 in Supplemental Funding. This funding must be utilized by 9/30/26.

\$582,676 towards training and technical assistance

This funding may only be used for training and technical assistance activities and can range in scope from SUD related training or technical assistance to the state, SUD related training or technical assistance to block grant providers, or workforce development meetings and activities. Funds cannot be used for service delivery, as they are strictly limited to training and TA.

An additional **\$408,189** was also received for standard Prevention, Treatment and Recovery services that will be awarded through contracts and allocations.

Funding Opportunity: \$6M Available for Community-Based Substance Use Services

(DMH/DD/SUS) is accepting applications for RFA #DMH25-005 to expand community-based SUD treatment and recovery services.

Key Details

- Total Funding: \$6 million
- Awards: Up to \$500,000 per organization
- Focus: Priority populations in areas with high overdose rates or limited service access

Important Dates

- Information Session: Held on Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025
- Applications Due: Nov. 3, 2025

Download RFA: [Download the RFA](#)

Awareness Celebrations

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Each October, we honor the history, culture, and contributions of Hispanic and Latinx communities. At DMH/DD/SUS, we are committed to supporting this community with accessible, bilingual mental health and crisis resources.

- Resources Available in Spanish:
- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
 - Call or text 988 or chat at 988lifeline.org
 - [For help in Spanish](#): Press 2 or text AYUDA to 988
- Crisis Bilingual Toolkit – Free, downloadable toolkit with flyers, social media posts, PSAs, and more to spread the word about crisis services in English and Spanish
- Webinar Replay: [*Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month: A Conversation on Culture, Identity, and Mental Health*](#)



The graphic features the NC Department of Health and Human Services logo at the top left, which includes the state seal and the text "NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services". Below the logo is a dark blue banner with white text: "Join us for the Hispanic Heritage Month Webinar" and "*A Conversation on Culture, Identity, and Mental Health*". The main body of the graphic is a vibrant collage of colorful squares containing various symbols like flowers, suns, birds, and a skull. At the bottom, a dark blue banner contains the text "CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH: A Conversation on Culture, Identity and Mental Health" and a teal banner at the very bottom states "WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2025 · FROM 12:00 – 1:30 P.M."

Disability Employment Awareness Month

October 2025 – “Celebrating Value and Talent”

- Held every October, NDEAM educates about disability employment issues and celebrates the many contributions of America’s workers with disabilities. This year’s theme highlights the achievements of people with disabilities—past and present—as we approach America’s 250th anniversary in 2026.
- DMH/DD/SUS & Inclusion Works Initiatives
- [2025–2030 Inclusion Works Strategic Plan](#) – advancing opportunities for Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) for individuals with I/DD.
- Provider Innovations Program Awards – supporting providers who develop creative ways to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- [Inclusion Works Guide](#) – a resource to help providers, employers, and stakeholders create pathways to employment success.



Program Highlights

NC Caregiving Workforce Strategic Leadership Council: Celebrating Progress

Council reconvened Sept. 11 to celebrate achievements and reaffirm commitment to strengthen caregiving workforce in nursing, direct care, and mental health/substance use.

- Established in 2022 by NCDHHS and NC Department of Commerce; brings together state agencies, educators, providers, and partners to address critical shortages.

Key Progress

- Nursing: Expanded academic coaching pilot, clinical instructor partnerships, and new loan forgiveness programs for rural/underserved areas.
- Mental Health & SUD: Career pathways expanded for human services professionals, \$20M appropriated for provider loan repayment, new standardized peer support training launched.
- Direct Care: Launched DSP Advanced Training Certificate at pilot colleges; \$3M awarded to support DSP recruitment and retention; first statewide workforce survey launching this fall.

Looking Ahead

- Focus on data collection, retention, life-sustaining wages, and expanded access to training.
- The NC Center on the Workforce for Health will take a leading role in ongoing implementation.

DMH/DD/SUS Fireside Chat with Kelly Crosbie: How Inclusion Connects is Making a Difference

- Join NCDHHS Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services for a special conversation about the great work Inclusion Connects has been doing! We'll talk about the progress we've made and what's coming next.

Speakers include:

- Kelly Crosbie, Division Director, DMHDDSUS
- Ginger Yarbrough, Chief Clinical Officer - IDD, TBI, & Olmstead
- Tina Barrett, Assistant Director - IDD

We will share stories, updates, and exciting news. This is a great chance to learn more and be part of the conversation. To submit your questions, please fill out a [survey form](#).

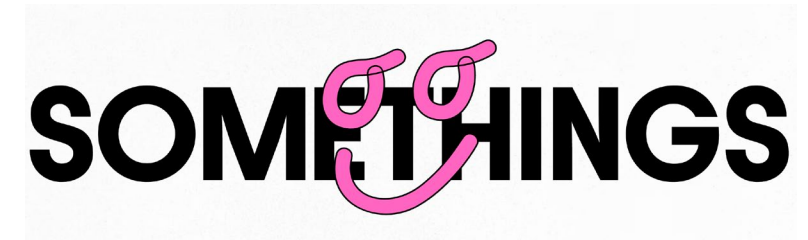
Date/Time: Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Registration: [Register for the Fireside Chat](#)



SOMETHINGS Free Teen Mentoring App Growing Quickly

- Rapid Growth: Since May 2025, teen engagement increased by 68%; now serving 619 teens across 80 counties (up from 54).
- Peer Support: Teens are paired with Certified Peer Support Mentors who provide relatable, lived-experience guidance through text and video calls.
- Impact:
 - 77 mental health crises de-escalated
 - Average satisfaction: 4.7/5
 - When Available: After school and weekends — offering a low-pressure way to connect.
 - Partnership: Initiative supported by NCDHHS, SOMETHINGS, and Alliance Health.
- Get Started: Teens, parents, or referrals can sign up at www.SOMETHINGS.com/northcarolina.



♥ 55% of teens feel better in under 2 weeks

Free mental health support for teens in North Carolina

Some things has partnered with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) to provide any teen across the state with free mental health services.

Talkspace NC: Innovative Mental Health Therapy for Justice-Impacted Youth

About the Webinar

Join DMHDDSUS and Talkspace to learn about a groundbreaking partnership that offers free virtual counseling to justice-impacted teens ages 13–17. This two-year program aims to serve up to 20,000 youth across North Carolina, helping expand access to culturally responsive mental health services.

- This webinar will highlight the need, value, and impact of this initiative, show how it expands access and consistency in youth mental health care, and feature a live demo of Talkspace’s platform. Families, youth, advocates, counselors, court officials, and providers are encouraged to attend.
- Date/Time: Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025 | 12:00–1:00 p.m.
[Register for the webinar](#)



Expand services for people in the justice system

The graphic features a young man with dark hair wearing a brown jacket, looking thoughtfully to the side. The background is a light blue gradient. At the top left is the Talkspace logo, and at the top right is the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services logo. Below the photo, the text reads 'Free therapy for NC youth'. Further down, a short paragraph states: 'Is something on your mind? A licensed therapist who specializes in youth will listen and help you navigate your feelings and experiences.' Below this, it says 'Talkspace therapy is FREE for any referred North Carolina youth ages 13–17' and provides the URL 'talkspace.com/ncyouth'. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.

Talkspace

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Free therapy for NC youth

Is something on your mind? A licensed therapist who specializes in youth will listen and help you navigate your feelings and experiences.

Talkspace therapy is FREE for any referred North Carolina youth ages 13–17

talkspace.com/ncyouth

North Carolina's Second Mobile OTP Unveiled in Greensboro

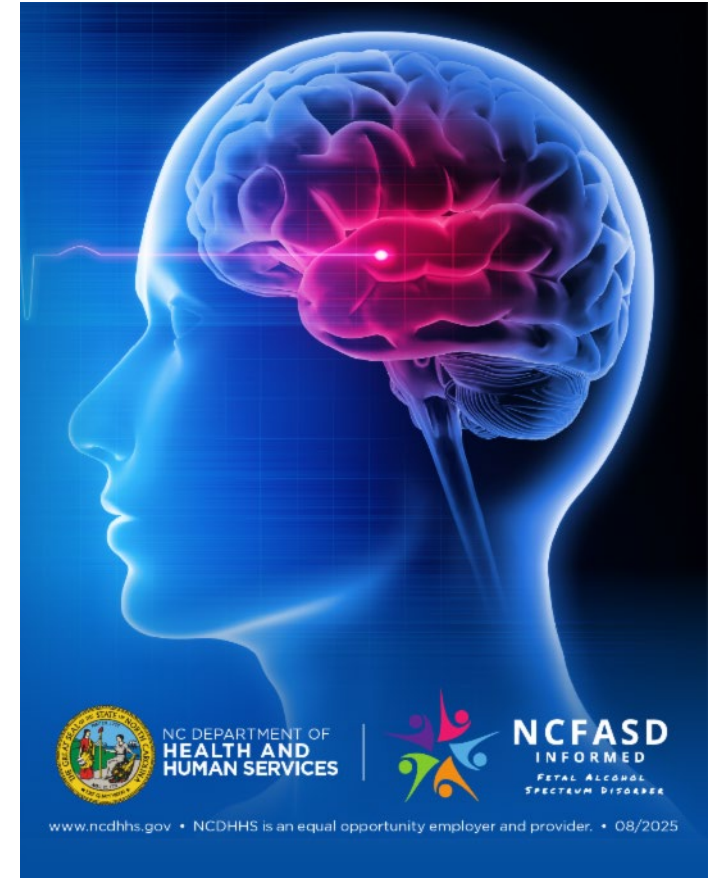
On Sept. 10, DMH/DD/SUS Director **Kelly Crosbie** and **Anna Stanley**, State Opioid Treatment Authority Administrator, celebrated the ribbon-cutting of the **second mobile Opioid Treatment Program (OTP)** in North Carolina at New Season Treatment Center in Greensboro.

- OTPs provide the gold standard of care for opioid use disorder, offering all FDA-approved medications for OUD along with counseling, case management, and peer support.
- Mobile units extend brick-and-mortar OTPs into communities, increasing access to treatment.
- Up to six more mobile OTPs are expected to launch by early next year, supported by Hurricane Helene relief funds through Vaya Health.
- This effort is part of the DMH/DD/SUS five-year strategic plan to expand access to health care and reduce substance misuse and overdose.



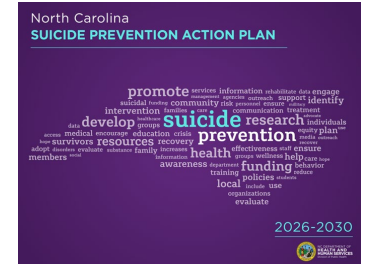
Webinar Replay: Parents Speak: Lived Experience with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

- Last month, in recognition of FASD Awareness Month, DMH/DD/SUS and NCFASD Informed hosted a webinar highlighting the realities of living with and supporting individuals affected by FASD.
- FASD affects 1 in 20 individuals in the U.S., yet only 10% are correctly diagnosed.
- This lifetime developmental disability is often unrecognized, misdiagnosed, and misunderstood.
- The event provided an overview of FASD and featured parents and family members sharing lived experiences.
- Watch the Replay: [\[Insert Replay Link\]](#)



NC Suicide Prevention Action Plan (2026–2030)

NCDHHS has released the state's [Suicide Prevention Action Plan](#) for 2026-2030. The five-year plan outlines a coordinated, evidence-based approach and promising practices to reduce suicide deaths and self-harm injuries statewide.



The Need

- Suicide is a **top 5 cause of death** for ages 10–65 in NC.
- **1,600 lives lost in 2023.**
- **Veterans:** 2.7x higher suicide rate than non-veterans.

Plan Priorities

- Strengthen prevention systems & expand crisis response.
- Reduce access to lethal means.
- Build awareness & community training (schools, workplaces, faith communities).
- Expand services for youth, veterans, older adults, and justice-involved.
- Focus on rural & underserved communities.

Resources

- **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** – Call, text, or chat (ASL & Spanish available).
- [Peer Warmline](#): 1-855-PEERS-NC.
- **Mobile Crisis Teams & Crisis Centers** statewide.
- Visit the **NCDHHS Suicide Prevention website** & download the **Crisis Services Toolkit**.

Two-year Anniversary of ASL Services for 988

- Celebration at the [REAL Crisis Center](#) in Greenville.
- Service offers direct video calling to 988 for consumers fluent in ASL.
- Nationwide, 48,000 calls to 988 through the ASL service.
- For Deaf and Hard of Hearing, dial 988 on videophone or go to the [website](#) and click on “Deaf/HoH” button and it will link you directly to a live ASL-fluent counselor.



Dara Baril, MA
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program Lead
Advocacy and Empowerment, DMH/DD/SUS

Stay Connected with Hot Topics!

We can't fit everything into today's presentation, but you can catch all the latest updates **every Tuesday and Thursday** through our **Hot Topics Newsletter** and **webpage**.

- New programs and initiatives
- Community success stories
- Upcoming events and funding opportunities
- Resources you can share with your networks

Sign up for the [Hot Topics Newsletter](#)

Visit the [Hot Topics page](#)

