



North Carolina
City of Jacksonville
Jacksonville NC COAP 2019

10/01/19 Grant Start → 09/30/22 Grant End

Overview

Located on the coast of North Carolina, Onslow County has a population of approximately 200,000, with 70,000 residing within the city of Jacksonville. The county also hosts one of the largest concentrations of U.S. Marines in the world, which accounts for its median age of 22.9 (the prime age for opioid abuse, according to the National Vital Statistics System). In part because of the military presence and young median age, Onslow County has the highest birthrate in the state, further compounding the issues caused by lack of support for families in the area. Children living in homes with parents who are affected by a substance use disorder (SUD) are at a higher risk for adverse childhood experiences.

Many overdose trends/statistics in Onslow County are staggering to comprehend. The Castlight Health report ranked Jacksonville as 12th in the nation for opioid abuse rates, with 8.2 percent of the population identified as receiving and abusing a prescription drug (about 16,000 residents). According to the Jacksonville Department

of Public Safety, since July 2017, there has been a 136 percent increase in overdoses, a 106 percent increase in crisis intervention calls, a 26 percent increase in attempted suicide, and a 58 percent increase in child abuse and neglect, with many cases due to substance abuse. Although the support has been substantial, gaps in providing treatment, prevention, and education still exist and continue to plague the community.

Grant Focus

- Expand law enforcement diversion and first-responder models that connect individuals to substance abuse treatment and recovery support services.
- Expand peer support services and recovery housing.
- Link data sets to identify trends and focus resources.
- Expand models of public health, behavioral health, and public safety information sharing and collaboration at state and local levels.

- Support children and youth affected by the opioid epidemic.
- Expand public awareness about opioid abuse.

Program Approach

The goals of the project are to:

1. Reduce the number of people in the Onslow County Detention Center for low-level arrests through both pre-arrest and post-arrest diversion programs, and reduce recidivism related to opioid-related crimes.
2. Reduce the number of overdoses and overdose deaths within the community.
3. Reduce the number and impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACES).

Points of action:

- Contract with RI International to provide two peer navigators for the local Dix Crisis Intervention Center for case management services leading to recovery. Peer navigators will engage with individuals on a tier-based system, with first contact occurring within 24 hours following discharge from a hospital or crisis center.
- Provide support for a law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD) program to divert low-level offenders with SUDs from courts/jail into treatment.
- Provide support to the Quick Response Team (QRT) to connect individuals with opioid use disorders (OUDs) to services after an encounter with first responders. The QRT will conduct a follow-up visit within 72 hours of a naloxone reversal.
- Contract a child therapist to provide counseling for children affected by opioid abuse for case referrals from law enforcement, with the goal of reducing the number and impact of ACES and providing up to six sessions for 100 children annually.

- Contract a licensed psychologist for Onslow County Schools to provide counseling and education for school children, athletes, staff, athletic trainers, and others about opioid use, misuse, and abuse, and to engage school personnel in ongoing education, with the goal of serving 100–200 individuals each year.
- Establish an Opioid Overdose Fatality Review Team (OOFRT) to review cases and identify missed prevention opportunities and system gaps to prevent future deaths. This project will provide funding for half of a full-time position through the Onslow County Health Department to administer the OOFRT.
- Conduct ongoing evaluation of efforts employing research professionals from the University of North Carolina–Wilmington. Their work will involve developing process and outcome evaluation plans, creating tools and processes for data collection, and measuring and reporting outcomes data, as well as making policy recommendations.

Project Partners

- Onslow County Health Department
- Onslow County Schools
- RI International
- University of North Carolina–Wilmington
- Onslow County Emergency Services–Quick Response Team

Contact Information

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