

Wicomico County Abatement Plan Application

State of Maryland ORF Targeted Abatement Grant Program Local Abatement Plan

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please review the instructions provided in the Call for Proposals document prior to completing this form.

The application package should be submitted via Smartsheet Form to the link below.

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/7abd36feaa304e9dad2e776c198e857f>

Jurisdiction/subdivision: Wicomico County

Point of Contact:

First/Last Name: Matthew McConaughey, MPH

Mailing Address: 108 E. Main St.
Salisbury, MD 21801

Position: Health Officer

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Total Allocated Funds \$1,384,667.92

Please select the ORF provision which most accurately represents the primary focus of the local abatement plan (you may identify more than one).

- (ii) Supporting peer support specialists and screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment services for hospitals, correctional facilities, and other high-risk populations;
- (iii) Increasing access to medications that support recovery from substance use disorders;
- (vi) Expanding and establishing safe stations, mobile crisis response systems, and crisis stabilization centers;
- (viii) Organizing primary and secondary school education campaigns to prevent opioid use, including for administrative expenses;
- (xi) Supporting and expanding other evidence-based interventions for overdose prevention and substance use treatment supporting community-based nonprofit recovery organizations that provide nonclinical substance use recovery support services in the State

I. PLAN SUMMARY *The plan summary must provide a clear summary of the projects to be funded and the activities that will be conducted in service of the Local Abatement Plan, and clearly tie to the provisions of the legislation identified above.*

Priority One-Naloxone Access: Improving access to naloxone medications proven to prevent or reverse an overdose

Naloxone is a prescription medicine used for the treatment of an opioid overdose emergency. The Health Department offers free training to individuals ages 12 and up. Trainings are offered

Wicomico County Abatement Plan Application

virtually or in person, as requested by the trainee or requesting organization. Naloxone trainings are held at local treatment agencies, homeless shelters, colleges, and universities, community events, and other agencies, and organizations upon request. Additionally, all new full-time Wicomico County government employees are trained and provided medication should they wish to obtain it during their new hire orientation. Naloxone is also kept in each county department for ease of access in case of an emergency overdose situation. Furthermore, nearly all law enforcement officers in the county carry Naloxone in anticipation of encountering an overdose emergency and the Wicomico County Health Department Overdose Response Program (ORP) provides training at the Police Academy to all new officers. Narcan is also available at the harm reduction center for walk-ins, and our Safe Station for those seeking this life saving medication. Wicomico County also has additional agencies and organizations that operate and oversee their own Overdose Response Program (ORP), including TidalHealth Peninsula Regional, our local hospital and HealthPort, a certified community based behavioral health clinic.

In an effort to improve access to Naloxone, in July 2023 the Wicomico County Health Department partnered with Salisbury Fire Department to implement a Naloxone Leave Behind Program. This MIEMSS Optional EMS protocol allows trained EMS providers to leave Naloxone behind in situations determined by Maryland EMS protocols. This provides lifesaving medications to those determined at risk of overdose based on a fire or EMS response. Wicomico County will continue their efforts to engage additional fire and EMS departments in an effort to expand this program to provide further saturation of Naloxone among high-risk individuals. The Wicomico County Executive's Office will also use direct ORF to purchase Handtevy Mobile. Handtevy Mobile will allow EMS clinicians to find the exact dosage of Naloxone for patients experiencing an opioid overdose.

In early 2024 the Wicomico County Health Department entered the planning stages of their Harm Reduction Vending Machine initiative. This initiative will allow the most high risk and vulnerable individuals easier and more discreet access to Harm Reduction supplies, which include not only Naloxone but other harm reduction supplies such as, Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips, first aid kits and more. Wicomico County plans to pilot this initiative with a few machines with participating partners, with the potential to increase the number of these machines as their effectiveness has been evaluated. We plan to utilize abatement funds to pay for supplies for the machines.

Priority Two- School Education: Organizing primary and secondary school education campaigns to prevent opioid use, including administrative expenses

In the last Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), over 5% of Wicomico County high school students reported they've used heroin at least once in their life, and almost one in five reported using a prescription drug without a prescription or differently than their doctor told them to use it. Prescription drug misuse is especially concerning among middle school students in the county. In 2021, 12.4% of county students from grades 6-8 reported misusing a prescription drug, doubling from 2014 (6.2%).

Wicomico County Abatement Plan Application

Education campaigns aim to change thoughts, attitudes and beliefs, as well as increase the overall knowledge regarding various topics. Given the ever changing landscape of substance use and misuse especially over the last decade, Wicomico County plans to partner with the local Board of Education to enhance knowledge among our youth on the various topics related to substance use and misuse. Given that fentanyl, a highly lethal opioid responsible for approximately 80% of deaths in the state of Maryland in 2022 is now being found in non-opioid substances including counterfeit pills and stimulants It is now more important than ever for our youth to be educated on the dangers of any illicit substance use.

"Do Sports not Opioids" campaign during Middle School Intramural culminating events (6). T-Shirts for each student participating at the school level with the slogan(approximate cost - \$8000). During the Intramural season from September to May 2026 middle school students will be competing at 6 sporting events at different designated locations. In line with the Maryland State Department of Education Health Curriculum Grade Level Outcomes instruction supports students in choosing alternative activities to experimenting with recreational drugs and alcohol. WCPS's Middle School Intramural Healthy Life Campaign will focus on highlighting that choosing to compete in sports is a better choice than to "Do Drugs". The Health Department is invited to set up a table at the event and be available for students' questions about drug prevention.

Mental health disorders are also major risk factors for substance use. According to the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Services Administration (SAMHSA), more than one in four adults living with severe mental health problems also has a substance use problem¹. Therefore, recognizing and addressing mental health issues as soon as possible among county youth becomes even more important. Unfortunately, mental health trends among county high school students have worsened. In 2021, almost 40% of county high school students reported on the YRBS feeling sad or hopeless for two or more weeks so that they stopped doing regular activities, a statistically significant increase from the 26.7% of students reporting those feelings in 2013's survey. Additionally, students reporting contemplating and/or making a plan for suicide also statistically increased during the same timeframe.

Wicomico Goes Purple, a substance misuse awareness campaign that aims to provide education to the community and our youth on the dangers of substance misuse is entering its sixth year of operation. This campaign focuses on prevention, treatment and recovery resources available in our community and aims to work towards the de-stigmatization of substance misuse. In an effort to reach more youth with this educational messaging, emphasis will be placed on partnerships throughout our local schools to foster this collaboration.

In addition to participation in the Wicomico Goes Purple campaign, additional educational campaign activities could include, but are not limited to the following:

- Hold an event with speaker(s) to talk to a group about the topic
- Create posters and other print materials containing information and statistics
- Create public service announcements to show on televisions and other electronic means

¹ <https://www.samhsa.gov/mental-health/mental-health-substance-use-co-occurring-disorders>

Wicomico County Abatement Plan Application

- of communication located throughout the schools and at sporting events
- Distribute campaign messages via listservs to students, faculty, and staff
- Disseminate print materials and incentive items at various school events
- Other allowable activities as reviewed by the local Overdose Prevention Leadership Team.

Wicomico County Overdose Prevention Team leadership will review all submitted documentation to ensure that the activities and plans presented fit the criteria that has been set forth by the General Assembly in 7-331.

Priority 3- Access to Medication: Increasing access to medications that support recovery from substance use disorders.

Medications for the treatment of Opioid Use Disorders (MOUD) include Methadone, Buprenorphine and Naltrexone. These medications are evidence-based and work to decrease withdrawal symptoms, and psychological cravings. Evidence indicates that treatment of opioid use disorder through utilization of MOUD decreases the risk of overdose morbidity and mortality. The research proves that these medications are not a substitute for illicit substance use, but rather an effective way to assist individuals who have been diagnosed with an opioid use disorder to begin their journey to recovery.

In 2019 House Bill 116 was entered into legislation requiring that all local detention centers provide all three types of MOUD to be offered to inmates. HB116 also requires screening and assessments of all inmates in an effort to determine if they fit the diagnostic criteria to be treated with these medications. Given the mandate and the financial strain on the County to provide this treatment to all inmates who fit the criteria, Wicomico County Opioid Restitution Funds will be used to assist in offsetting the costs associated with the purchase of these medications.

Additionally, the Salisbury Fire Department's *Salisbury Wicomico Integrated First Care Team (SWIFT)* currently has protocols in place for rapid induction of Buprenorphine into the services that they already provide to the community. *SWIFT* has been instrumental in reducing EMS utilization for non-emergency calls through a coordinated effort with the Salisbury Fire Department, Tidal Health, and Wicomico County Health Department. With the incorporation of early induction of Buprenorphine *SWIFT* has another needed tool to address the health concerns of Wicomico County. This program will not only assist in reduced withdrawal symptoms among those with an opioid use disorder, but has the potential to increase follow up to treatment for substance use disorders. *SWIFT* will work closely with the *Community Outreach Addictions Team (COAT)* which will provide peer support and linkages to appropriate recovery services. Funding is not needed at the present time for this initiative.

Future Plans and Considerations

Given the ever changing landscape of substance use and the illicit drug supply, the priorities set forth in this Abatement Plan will continue to be monitored and assessed for their effectiveness

Wicomico County Abatement Plan Application

and changes to the plan will be made as needed. The Overdose Prevention Team in Wicomico County meets monthly and the discussions regarding these funds will remain a priority of the group. The public is invited to attend these meetings, which occur on the first Thursday of each month in a hybrid format.

II. PLAN PROBLEM STATEMENT *The problem statement section describes why the plan is needed and identifies the most significant issues, problems, trends, or opportunities that will be addressed by the Local Abatement Plan.*

- **Need for Naloxone**
 - 195 EMS naloxone encounters in 2023, up from 139 the year prior (source: MDH dashboard)
 - Through October 2024, 107 administrations for 2024.
 - Continued improvement getting naloxone in the hands of those with social experience. 661 in FY24, up from 237 in FY23.
- **Trends in Overdose Deaths**
 - 50 total overdose deaths in 2023, highest it's been in a decade - up 31% from year prior
 - opioid Overdose deaths rose again in 2023 (41 opioid related from 29 in 2022).
 - Consistently, 90% are fentanyl involved
 - Rise in cocaine - 27 deaths in 2023, up from 19 the year prior
 - Older populations increasing - 16 deaths in 2023 55+ years, up from 10 the year prior
 - Divergence in 2023 - male (38) female (12)
 - Trauma mentioned in 5/14 reviews/recommendations in 2024
- **Youth Perceptions**
 - YRBS data trends are generally positive - significant decreases in all drug type use from 2013 until 2022; however, over 1 in 10 high school students reported still using a rx drug outside of intended purpose
 - Unknown impact of increased cannabis access (as a gateway)
- **Impact of Peer Support/Other harm reduction**
 - COAT team: 435 individuals served; two thirds linked to treatment; 93% still in treatment 6 months later
 - 68 people served over 622 encounters; almost 25k syringes collected
- **Care coordination Detention Center**
 - Capacity to support the warm handoffs remains an issue: inconsistent aftercare planning for pre-release many times due to releases coming unexpectedly
 - Only 1 in 4 transferred to community services in FY24, but this was a significant increase from FY23 (13.2%)
 - From LOFRT reviews in 2024: care integration priority recommendation in 8/14 (57%) of case reviews - most of any category

III. PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES *Program Goals and Objectives should define the central aim*

Wicomico County Abatement Plan Application

and principal goals of the Local Abatement Plan that will be addressed by the project activities, and clearly tie to the provisions of the legislation identified.

1. Goal 1: Support and expand harm reduction services provided in Wicomico County.
 - Objective 1.1: By June 2025, procure six (6) machines for the Harm Reduction Vending Machine initiative.
 - Objective 1.2: By June 2025, secure a vendor for the management of the Harm Reduction Vending Machines.
 - Objective 1.3: From July 2025 to June 2030, manage the supplies for the Harm Reduction Vending Machines
 - Objective 1.4: From July 2025 to June 2030, evaluate the effectiveness of the Harm Reduction Vending Machines
2. Goal 2: Continue to provide outreach and education on overdose prevention through partnerships to residents.
 - Objective 2.1: By June 2026, establish plan for education awareness campaigns with Wicomico County Public Schools
 - Objective 2.2: Partner to provide community events through Wicomico Goes Purple on an annual basis.
3. Goal 3: Strengthen care coordination and awareness among all public safety partners.
 - Objective 3.1: In partnership with our Local Overdose Review Fatality Committee, conduct a gap assessment of the barriers to connecting inmates to treatment upon release by December 2025.
 - Objective 3.2: From July 2025 to June 2028, continue to provide medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) for inmates at the Wicomico County Detention Center.
 - Objective 3.3: Provide outreach and education to judicial partners on programs, resources, anti-stigma topics, etc at least one time per fiscal year.
4. Goal 4: Support best practices for the treatment of substance use disorders (Priority #11)
 - Objective 4.1: Support EMS partners with the implementation of EMS field buprenorphine induction program from July 2025 to June 2028.
 - Objective 4.2: From July 2025 through June 2027, work with EMS partners to evaluate the long-term outcomes among those enrolled in EMS on-site buprenorphine induction.
 - Objective 4.3: Support training to support trauma-informed care.

IV. PLAN PROGRAM MEASUREMENT/PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

What you will use to measure (a) the effectiveness of the plan's support of the selected Goal/Strategy, (b) how it fills a gap in the region, and (c) how it serves its intended demographic. These measures may be quantitative (numeric) and/or qualitative (descriptive). These performance measures must be reported on annually, by project and ORF provision.

Performance	Measuring the	How this is expected	How It serves the
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Wicomico County Abatement Plan Application

Measure	effectiveness of goal/strategy	to fill gap in Wicomico County	intended demographic
Maintain 6 vending machines for a minimum of 5 years.	# of vending machines maintained annually # of items dispensed annually (by type of item dispensed)	Expand access to harm reduction supplies including Narcan.	Low barrier, no stigma access to harm reduction supplies. This is intended to reduce overdose, and reduce other negative health outcomes that may result from substance use.
Complete an educational awareness campaign for middle school students	# of educational awareness campaign activities offered to middle school students in FY2026 # of middle school students participating in awareness campaign activities in FY2026	By providing continued education and information to young people. This is a prevention focused project.	This is intended to serve as a prevention campaign by providing youth with education on impacts of opiate use as well as provide healthy activities to participate in.
Support needs assessment with LORFT committee	# of priorities identified as a result of the needs assessment	Through identifying needed services, supports, and resources. The needs assessment can help LORFT committee members prioritize needs identified and make an action plan to reduce needs and bridge gaps.	This is intended to identify gaps and needs in services and resources. When we are formally aware of what identified needs are we can prioritize these needs and make an action plan to reduce needs and bridge gaps.
Provide Jail based MOUD services	# of MOUD medications offered # of unduplicated inmates served by MOUD services # of unduplicated	Allows the opportunity to serve individuals in a detention center so MOUD services are not disrupted due to legal problems.	This is intended to provide medications for individuals needing support MOUD in the local detention center.

Wicomico County Abatement Plan Application

	inmates receiving vivitrol/naltrexone		
	# of unduplicated inmates receiving buprenorphine		

V. PLAN TIMELINE

Enter project information as necessary

Goal(s)	Key tasks/activities	Person(s) responsible	Progress Measurement	Begin date	End date
<i>Specific and measurable goals that are relevant signs of the effectiveness of the project's support of the selected Goal/Strategy, filling a gap in the region, and serving intended demographic</i>	<i>What are the steps you will take and tasks you will accomplish to achieve the goal</i>	<i>Who is responsible for the key tasks/activities</i>	<i>How will you measure success or completion of task/activity? Please provide list of measures that you will document to assess your own progress towards task/activity</i>	<i>When will the task/activity start?</i>	<i>When will the task/activity end and/or when will the goal be achieved?</i>
<i>By July 1, 2025, continue maintenance contract with Harm Reduction Vending Machine Vendor</i>	<i>Contract with Vendor Receive and process invoices</i>	<i>Vendor, OPT Coordinator, six (6) identified contacts at each site</i>	<i>Vendor will continue maintenance and technical assistance to Wicomico County Health Department</i>	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	<i>June 30.2030</i>

Wicomico County Abatement Plan Application

<i>By July 1, 2025</i>	<i>Obtain quotes for items purchased per agency purchasing guidelines</i>	<i>OPT Coordinator or Administrative Specialist and Purchasing Department</i>	<i>Supplies ordered, received and stocked in all vending machines</i>	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	<i>June 30, 2030</i>
<i>By July 1, 2025 develop contract for the reimbursement of the cost of injectable buprenorphine and naltrexone for inmates housed at Wicomico County Detention Center.</i>	<i>Contract with WCDC Receive and process invoices</i>	<i>Wicomico County Detention Center Medical and Accounting Staff LBHA Director and Health Department accounts payable</i>	<i>Contract with WCDC to reimburse the cost of injectable buprenorphine and naltrexone. Individuals housed at WCDC will be offered injectable buprenorphine and/or naltrexone as an option for MOUD services. 10 individuals per month will receive injectable</i>	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	<i>June 30, 2030</i>

Wicomico County Abatement Plan Application

			<p><i>medication</i></p> <p><i>25 individuals will receive injectable medication within a full year</i></p>		
<p><i>Complete Educational Awareness Campaign "Do Sports not Opioids" by 6/30/2026</i></p>	<p><i>Identify dates and locations for the campaign.</i></p> <p><i>Organize campaign logistics; order materials; execute event(s).</i></p> <p><i>Collect information on the number of events occurred, dates and location of events, and the number of students participating.</i></p>	<p><i>Wicomico County Public School staff</i></p> <p><i>Planning committee members (to include a member of the Wicomico County Health Department (TBD))</i></p>	<p><i>Completion of educational and awareness campaign.</i></p>	<p><i>7/1/2025</i></p>	<p><i>6/30/2026</i></p>

Wicomico County Abatement Plan Application

VI. SPEND PLAN DESCRIPTION *Detailed explanation of planned expenses*

MOUD in the local detention center:

- Estimation of 10 individuals receiving an injectable medication per month. Each injection is approximately \$1,600 per month. Total cost would be \$16,000 per month for injectable Brixadi or Vivitrol. The total cost of oral medication is \$1,000 per month. Total estimated cost is \$17,000 per month X 12 months. Total annual cost is \$202,500. Total served in a total year 25 individuals.

Supplies for the County's Harm Reductions Vending Machines

- To purchase items for the harm reduction vending machines. Items to consider include first aid kits, and toiletry items to aid individuals who may be at higher risk of overdose. Supplies will support needs of individuals.- Total cost \$8,000 annually.

Maintenance of the County's Harm Reductions Vending Machines

- It is estimated to be \$39,600 annually to maintain six (6) harm reduction vending machines. This costs may need to be adjusted over time.

Board of Education Education/Awareness Campaign:

- "Do Sports not Opioids" campaign estimated at approximately \$8,000.

Indirect Costs (10%):

- \$125,850 total

Total 5 year cost: \$1,384,350. Annual breakdown is listed below.

Total estimated costs by Fiscal Year (including indirect costs):

Fiscal Year	Activities	Costs	Indirect	Total Funding
FY2026	● Jail Based MOUD Services	\$202,500	\$25,810	\$283,910
	● Vending Machine maintenance and supplies	\$47,600		
	● Education/Awareness campaign for middle school students	\$8,000		
FY2027	● Jail Based MOUD Services ● Vending Machine	\$202,500	\$25,010	\$275,110

Wicomico County Abatement Plan Application

	maintenance and supplies	\$47,600		
FY2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jail Based MOUD Services • Vending Machine maintenance and supplies 	\$202,500 \$47,600	\$25,010	\$275,110
FY2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jail Based MOUD Services • Vending Machine maintenance and supplies 	\$202,500 \$47,600	\$25,010	\$275,110
FY2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jail Based MOUD Services • Vending Machine maintenance and supplies 	\$202,500 \$47,600	\$25,010	\$275,110

5 year estimated costs: \$1,384,350

To the best of my knowledge, I certify that all the information provided herein is true and correct.

IX. AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL SIGNATURE: _____

Printed Name: Julie Giordano

Title: County Executive

Date: _____

2/19/2025

X. ADDITIONAL SIGNATURES

The signatures below serve to convey the coordination of other local entities or government partners involved in the local abatement plan. Additional signatures should be added as necessary

Wicomico County Abatement Plan Application

Signature: _____

Printed Name: Matthew McConaughey

Title: Health Officer